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CONFIDENTIAL.

(5588.)

PART III.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

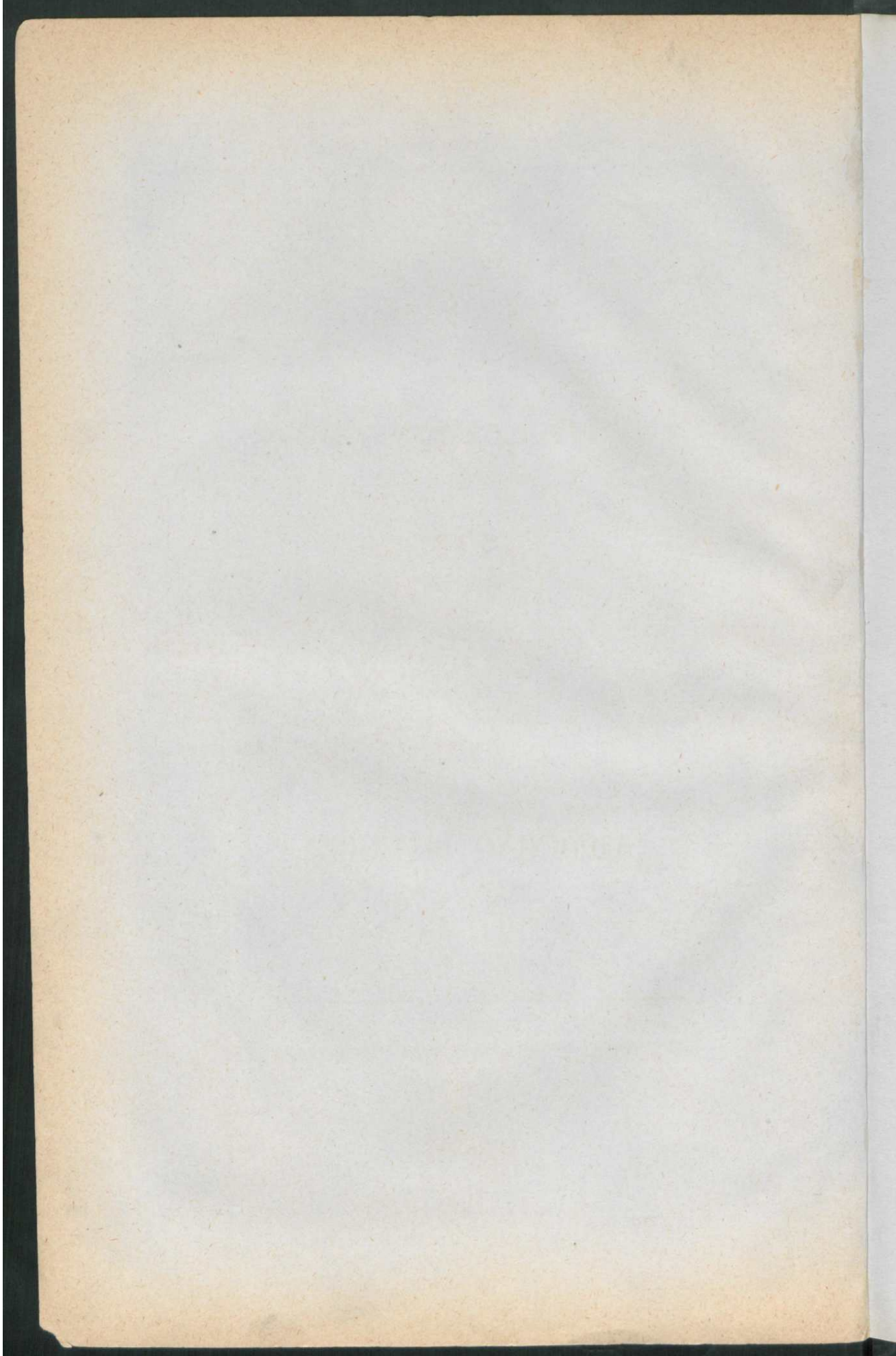
RESPECTING

AFFAIRS IN THE RIVER NIGER

AND

ADJOINING DISTRICTS.

1886-87.



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[This paper should have appeared in Part II, as No. 3*, p. 6.]

Foreign Office to King Ja Ja.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 11, 1886.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th November last, in which you complain of the action of certain British merchants in attempting to trade in your oil markets, and request that they may be warned to desist from any such attempts for the future; and I am to inform you that Consul Hewett, who is shortly returning to his post, has been furnished with a copy of your letter, and instructed to inquire into the matter, and take such steps for its settlement as may seem best to him.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting Affairs in the River Niger
and adjoining Districts.

PART III.

No. 1.

Foreign Office to Consul Hewett.

(No. 22.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 17, 1886.

WITH reference to the despatch No. 21 from this Department of yesterday's date, I am directed by the Earl of Rosebery to transmit to you herewith, for your information, copy of a letter addressed by his Lordship to King Ja Ja on the subject of his protest against the fines imposed upon him.*

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 2.

Vice-Consul Johnston to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July .)

(No. 12. Africa.)

My Lord,

Mondole Island, May 24, 1886.

I REGRET to have to inform your Lordship that my relations with the German officials of the Cameroons are not in a satisfactory condition, and that the recent actions of his Excellency the Governor seem to me entirely opposed to the spirit and letter of the various Treaties and Agreements between the United Kingdom and Germany which refer to the possessions of both Powers in West Africa.

Your Lordship will probably remember that in my despatches Nos. 8 and 11, Africa, I stated that, by the advice of Mr. Consul Hewett, I had declined to enforce the payment of any further instalments of the fine inflicted by the German Governor on Victoria until instructions to that effect should be sent by your Lordship. I informed his Excellency of this in my letter to him of the 26th April, of which a copy was forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch No. 11. When he received this he again wrote to me (letter dated the 28th April) repeating his demands for payment in a peremptory manner, and adding that if this request were not complied with he should complain of my conduct to the Foreign Office in Berlin. He also wrote that he could not recognize Victoria as a British Colony, "merely on the strength of an isolated expression of Earl Granville's;" and as reasons for his non-recognition he cited the fact that Victoria was not mentioned in the list of British Colonies given in "Whitaker's Almanack." He should, therefore, only recognize it as a "British Settlement."

I replied to this letter very briefly, but politely, regretting that I did not feel empowered to enforce his claims against Victoria till your Lordship or Mr. Hewett should instruct me so to do; and remarking that I thought it unprofitable to enter into a dispute as to the actual status of the territory of Victoria, seeing that its present condition was necessarily a transitory one.

I have received, personally, no further communication from the German officials at

* See Part II, No. 101.

the Cameroons, nor have I made any, as yet, myself. Your Lordship is now acquainted with the entire correspondence which has passed between us, and will be able to judge whether I have been wanting in politeness or respect to the German Government.

I had kept Mr. Consul Hewett fully informed of the phases of this altercation, and he came here on the 8th May in Her Majesty's ship "Watchful," to advise me how to proceed in view of certain threatened emergencies.

Shortly after he had left I heard from the Cameroons that the Governor had issued, or had threatened to issue, an order that "all boats from Victoria, without exception," were to be stopped and detained wherever they might be found in German territory, and held as a security for the payment of the fine. My sources of information were, firstly, a letter from the Rev. J. J. Fuller, the chief agent of the Baptist Mission in Cameroons; and secondly, the verbal statement of a Mr. Isaac Johnson, an inhabitant of Victoria, who had proceeded to the Cameroons River in his own boat in the beginning of May. This person is a member of the Governing Council of Victoria, and is a contractor for the supply of provisions to Her Majesty's ships. He came to my Vice-Consulate to inform me that the Governor had issued the order above-mentioned to stop all Victoria boats. He also said the Judge (M. von Puttkamer) had sent for him, and had questioned him closely as to which persons in Victoria had brought the subject of the fine before the notice of Her Majesty's Government. M. von Puttkamer also told him—as, from all accounts, he seems to have told a great many other British subjects—that I should not remain much longer Vice-Consul for the Cameroons, as the Governor was very annoyed at my refusal to enforce the fine, and the British Government always removed officials who were distasteful to the Germans.

This was only hearsay, after all, and the personal attacks on myself I should not have thought worth noticing; but the reported order to stop all Victoria boats in German waters seemed to me really serious, and at first I resolved to write to the Governor and ask him if the information given me were correct. Then I imagined this inquiry might only provoke a bitter correspondence, and that the best way of arriving at the truth would be to go to the Cameroons River, call upon the Governor, and endeavour to get him to discuss reasonably the questions at issue. I was also desirous of investigating, and reporting to your Lordship at the same time, on the extraordinary state of affairs between the natives and the European traders in the river, which, from the accounts I receive, looks very serious for the tranquillity of these regions. Just before starting I was shown another and later letter from the Rev. J. J. Fuller, which raises an important issue as to the German Governor's right to threaten expulsion or hindrance to peaceable English missionaries merely because he is annoyed at the action, or, rather, the want of action, on the part of a British official.

As I was most anxious to reach the Cameroons and make an attempt to induce the German authorities to act more reasonably, I did not wait for the arrival of the steamer (due on the 25th instant), but started for Cameroons in my Consular gig. Unfortunately, the weather at this season is exceptionally stormy. My boat, when off the point of Bimbia, was caught in a sudden squall and very nearly wrecked, and some of my men were injured in trying to keep her off the rocks. I nevertheless pursued my way, and should, perhaps, have reached the Cameroons, but my boat's crew were too disabled, so I had to return slowly to Mondolé to mend their hurts. I shall therefore proceed in two or three days time to the Cameroons River by steamer, and shall endeavour to ascertain the truth of these reports.

I cannot refrain from believing that, viewed by an impartial observer, the recent conduct of the German officials of the Cameroons will appear unprovoked, unreasonable, and impolitic. In the beginning of October last the German Governor commits a distinctly illegal act in imposing a fine on a British Colony. When he finds that information of this proceeding has reached England, he endeavours to extort the names of the informants (being unaware that the report was made by the Commander of one of Her Majesty's ships), with a view, I suppose, of punishing them eventually for their temerity. He is paid 40*l.* out of the 50*l.* which he sentenced these British subjects to pay, then, when a British official arrives on the scene, and the inhabitants, taking courage, refuse to pay the last instalment of the fine, alleging that the bond was extorted from them by threats, and the official, acting under orders from his superior officer, declines to enforce the payment without instructions to that effect from his Government, the German Governor, not content to forego 10*l.*, while the matter is under the consideration of the home authorities, proceeds to threaten and annoy British subjects who are entirely unconnected with the subject in dispute, and permits himself and his subordinate officials to levy foolish—I might almost say childish—threats against the British official who has unwittingly offended him.

If there are any true complaints to be made of my course of action during the two months which I have spent in the Cameroons district, they will be of its nullity.

Of the several claims made by British subjects and brought to my notice, I have not attempted to press one. Divining the touchiness of the German authorities, and almost sympathizing with their irritability on account of their troubles with the natives, I have in every case persuaded clients to let their matters stand over, if possible, till better times, and not insist on my intervention.

Seeing also that the Germans viewed all my movements with suspicion, and that I could never go out sketching or shooting without some political reason being assigned to my excursion, I have confined all my outings to the neighbourhood of Victoria, and have never once set foot on German territory, save on the one occasion of my official visit to the Cameroons River. Even here I refrained from visiting native towns within a mile of the Government offices, because I was given to understand that my welcome might be too demonstrative.

A Cameroons Chief, Lock Preso, asked me to take his son into my service, a request often made to Her Majesty's Consular officers on this coast, but although I at first consented, I afterwards learned that this act might be displeasing to the Germans, so I revoked my decision.

Whenever German officials or traders have visited Victoria I have shown them all the hospitality in my power. I have even arrested criminals who had evaded German justice by crossing the boundaries of Victoria, and have handed them over to the German authorities, thus rendering myself liable to blame for an irregular proceeding. In short, I have in all things endeavoured to pursue a policy of conciliation and self-effacement. Only when the orders of my superior officer and the demands of the German Governor conflicted, I felt it my duty to obey the former.

I inclose, for your Lordship's consideration, on affidavit sworn at my Vice-Consulate by the Rev. John Pinnock, a Baptist missionary resident here, which throws a very clear light on the circumstances attending the imposition of the fine on Victoria.

Trusting your Lordship will exonerate me from blame in this unsought quarrel, I remain, &c.

(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 2.

The Rev. J. Fuller to the Rev. J. Pinnock.

(Extract.)

Bethel Station, Cameroons, May 8, 1886.

I HAVE had a visit from the Judge,* with a message from the Governor, requesting me to write and ask you if you had written any communication to the Foreign Office in London about the Victoria affair, and if you belong to the Court of Equity. I promised I would do so, and so write, although I believe my letter will have shown him that his surmises are altogether wrong.

His letter from the Consul† does not appear to go down, and the Judge said he was so put out at first that he thought of stopping all boats from Victoria, without exception, as hostages for the remainder of the fine, till it was paid, but that he thought he had changed his mind. As you had something to do with this affair, he has asked me the above questions, of the answer to which I now send you a copy.

You must be careful not to have anything to do with their political affairs, except what directly concerns yourself and the Mission.

Let your answer be as plain as possible, as I may have to write to him again, and if you like you can show the Consul my letter. I hear this morning that the Judge has been at Johnson about the affair, and from what I hear there is likely to be some writing pass between the authorities.

Inclosure 2 in No. 2.

The Rev. J. Fuller to the Rev. Mr. Pinnock.

(Extract.)

May 19, 1886.

I HAVE had another visit from the Judge about you and this Victoria affair. His questions this time were again pointed. He wanted to know, as from the Governor,

* Von Puttkamer.

† Letter from Vice-Consul Johnston to his Excellency Baron von Soden, Governor of the Cameroons, April 26, 1886. *Vide* Part II, No. 95.

whether the complaint was lodged in England, and if you did sign the paper. I told him I did not think you did, as it was a political affair.

Then came the worst part of it to me. He said the Governor wished him to tell me that, on my previous interview with him, he had assured me that no one would interfere with us in our missionary operations, and that he would render me all the protection he could, but that now the Consul had taken such steps to thwart their hopes of Victoria becoming German territory that he must now recall that promise, and only advise me not to attempt any extension of our work, as it may be we shall have to remove from Cameroons. I have written to him on the subject, but I do not know if he will send me a written reply.

You will then see that all our hopes are likely to be dashed to the ground, for the Judge said, when the Governor heard that I had been up to Abo, he was pleased at first, but fearing I should be going to expense up there, he has sent to give me warning before I go too far. Where this will end I am at a loss to know.

I think you have done well to tell the Consul of what I wrote you, so that he may not be in the dark about anything; at the same time you will see the need of caution, and not meddle with any politics. It is best to hear and say little.

The trade is entirely stopped here. The natives made a law last Friday, and closed all trade in the river. I am afraid it will deprive me of the chance of getting to Bakundu, but I must wait and look on.

Inclosure 3 in No. 2.

Affidavit of the Rev. J. Pinnock, of Victoria.

ON the 13th October, 1885, the gun-boat "Habicht" hove in sight; I left school and went on board before they anchored. On arriving I asked if the Governor of Cameroons was on board; "Yes," was the reply, and I asked to see him. I was shown up the bridge, where I saw his Excellency and the Commander. I saluted them, and I was well received. The Governor then asked me if it was true that the Victorians had gone to Batoki and destroyed lives and property, also capturing men and women; I answered yes, only the report of lives being lost was not founded; the Victorians saw no one killed by them. At this point I called up from my boat for a letter to the Governor from the Court of Equity at Victoria, and handed the same to his Excellency. He received the letter, and marching on the bridge read its contents. In the meantime the Commander took the opportunity of speaking to me. He asked me to show him the Mission-houses, the church, and the German factory; these I pointed out to him. In a little the Governor joined, and turning to me, said, "The people of Victoria had gone on German grounds, and had broken the peace. Further, they went without giving any notice and destroyed lives and property, and took prisoners. I have the power also to do the same in Victoria, to use force for force." Then he went on by saying, "But now, as they have written to me this letter of apology, I am prepared to have the matter settled peaceably." I was then asked if I had any objection in carrying a message to the people for him. I answered I had none. "Then," says he, "tell the people for me (not officially) that if they want the matter to be settled quietly and peaceably, their first step is to deliver up immediately all the prisoners, and if they give me the opportunity of acting officially, the matter will soon be at an end." I then left him, and brought his message to the people, who consented to deliver up the prisoners.

The following day, the 14th October, on their return from Batoki, where they had gone to note the damages done, I went on board together with the German Agent here, M. Stehr. In conversation with the Governor, he said, "I am not to be blamed for the neglect of the British Government in not informing the people here of the transactions between England and Germany; had I used force for force, I feel sure the British Government would acknowledge my right when I represent the case to them." He then spoke at great length of the amount of damage done to the Batoki people, and thought of fining the people here 100L., but M. Stehr and myself asked him not to fix the price, as the people are unable to pay it. We then begged him to allow the people to estimate the property, as they know best the cost of the articles. He consented, and asked us to be present when the prices are put on the goods and houses destroyed, then he would be satisfied. He gave to M. Stehr a list of the number of houses that were burnt down; this we brought on shore, and asked the people on behalf of the Governor to estimate the loss done to the Batoki people. The Court members, in presence of M. Stehr and myself, sat down reluctantly to estimate the loss. It was estimated at 45L. This we

reported to the Governor on our return to the gun-boat. He immediately went down after talking together, leaving the three of us, the Commander, M. Stehr, and myself. In a little M. Stehr was called down; several minutes passed and I was called down too on the return of M. Stehr. I was then asked by the Governor to write in English, being dictated by himself, a promissory note which he had drawn up, and a reply to the Court of Equity. Whilst writing he said, "I have made the amount a round sum, 50*l.*, and it is to be paid in three instalments by the 1st March, 1886."

M. Stehr had orders not to hoist his flag until the promissory note was agreed to and signed by the Court of Equity, and handed over to M. Stehr, but as soon as it is signed he (M. Stehr) was to hoist the flag, and the Governor and Commander would come ashore, but not before.

We left the gun-boat and came on shore at 7 P.M., and I handed over to Mr. S. Brew, the President, both the Governor's reply and the promissory note.

(Signed) JNO. PINNOCK

Mission House, Victoria, May 17, 1886.

I swear that the above statement is correct:

(Signed) JNO. PINNOCK.

Sworn to in my presence:

(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON, *Her Majesty's Vice-Consul.*

Mondolé Island, May 18, 1886.

No. 3.

Foreign Office to Vice-Consul Johnston.

(No. 8.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 6, 1886.

I AM directed by the Earl of Rosebery to state that his Lordship gathers from your Reports that the history of the Batoki affair was as follows:—

The Governing Council of Victoria, not knowing that Batoki is under the Protectorate of Germany, directed an invasion of the territory with the result that houses were burnt and prisoners were carried off. The Governor of the Cameroons, hearing of the invasion, visited the spot, and, after investigation, went to Amba Bay in a man-of-war. The Court of Equity wrote to him explaining that they were ignorant of the fact that Batoki was under the Protectorate of Germany, and apologizing for their act. The Governor accepted the apology, and said that he would be satisfied if the prisoners were restored and the sufferers indemnified for their losses. He mentioned 100*l.* as the amount of indemnity, but at the request of the local authorities assented to their framing themselves an estimate of the losses. On receiving their estimate of 45*l.* he consented to fix the indemnity at 50*l.*

This settlement, if irregular in form, was, nevertheless, satisfactory, as it enabled the Victorians, by a simple act of reparation, to escape the consequences of an act of aggression which might have assumed a serious aspect if the Governor had made it the subject of a formal complaint to his Government. The conduct of the Governor, indeed, on the occasion of his visit to the Settlement under circumstances of some provocation, must be considered to have been wanting in neither fairness nor consideration.

It must also be remembered that there were no British Naval or Consular officers in the neighbourhood to whom he could refer.

After full consideration of the facts, Lord Rosebery has decided that you should recommend the Council to pay at once the balance of 10*l.* still owing on account of the indemnity, with regard to which it should be borne in mind that the losses were estimated by the authorities of Victoria themselves.

As regards the counter-claim, to which you refer in your letter to the Governor of the 26th April, made on account of the capture and maintenance of criminals who had fled from German territory and had been lodged by German officials in the Victoria gaol, it appears from your despatch No. 12 of the 24th May that you have doubts as to the legality of the detention of these criminals. I am to observe that, so far as the circumstances are understood, it would appear that the proceeding was illegal, and that you cannot be authorized to treat the settlement of the claim as a set-off against the indemnity claim, though, of course, you should collect any sums which are legally due to you.

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Your conciliatory attitude and management under novel and trying circumstances, as well as the tone of your letter to the Governor, are approved by his Lordship.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 4.

Foreign Office to Consul Hewett.

(No. 28.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 7, 1886.

I AM directed by the Earl of Rosebery to transmit to you, for your information, copy of a despatch addressed to Mr. Johnston, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at the Cameroons, relative to the recent differences between that Colony and that of Victoria, Ambas Bay.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 5.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 7, 1886.

WITH reference to a despatch from this Department of the 14th June, I am directed by the Earl of Rosebery to transmit to you, to be laid before Earl Granville, copy of a despatch addressed to Mr. Johnston, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at the Cameroons, relative to the recent differences between that Colony and that of Victoria, Ambas Bay.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 6.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir E. Malet.

(No. 175. Africa.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 8, 1886.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 96, Africa, of the 29th March, I inclose despatches from Mr. Johnston, Vice-Consul in the Cameroons, respecting the indemnity paid by the Victorians for Batoki property destroyed by them.† I inclose also copy of an instruction sent to Mr. Johnston,* directing him to recommend the payment of a balance of 10*l.*, which has been temporarily withheld by his advice.

It is not necessary that your Excellency should initiate any discussion on this subject. Should Count Berghem allude to it, you are authorized to inform him of the course adopted by Her Majesty's Government.

You might, however, take an opportunity of referring to the negotiations with the Baptist Missionary Society, and of intimating that it might be advisable to let the Governor of the Cameroons know that the territory of Victoria must be deemed at present to be in all respects a possession of the British Crown.

I have to request you to return Mr. Johnston's despatches.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 7.

The Earl of Rosebery to Mr. Scott.

(No. 175 A. Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 12, 1886.

THE German Chargé d'Affaires alluded to-day to the negotiations of his Government with the Baptist missionaries at Ambas Bay. He said that though he had not

* No. 3.

† See Part II, Nos. 76 and 95; and *ante*, No. 2.

recently heard from Berlin on the subject, he knew that it was hoped there that Her Majesty's Government would use their influence with the Baptist Missionary Society to be content with a lower price. I told him that I had some time ago informed Count Hatzfeldt that we had no such influence, and that, in my opinion, it was better to leave the matter to be treated directly between the Society and the German Government; that if I intervened the Society might consider that matter was one of considerable importance, and might rather raise than lessen their demands. Nor did I think that the price asked by the Missionary Society, if I was correctly informed, was excessive.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 8.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received July 13.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, July 12, 1886.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th ultimo respecting the penalties inflicted by Her Majesty's Consul for the Bights of Benin and Biafra on King Ja Ja of Opobo; and their Lordships desire me to state, for the information of the Secretary of State, that copies of the printed correspondence on the subject have been forwarded to the Commander-in-chief on the station and to the Senior Officer on the West Coast of Africa.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

No. 9.

Mr. Scott to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 19.)

(No. 60. Africa.)

My Lord,

Berlin, July 17, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to return herewith the original despatches inclosed for my perusal in your Lordship's despatch No. 175, Africa, of the 8th instant, relating to the indemnity paid by the Court of Equity at Victoria to the Governor of the Cameroons for Batoki property destroyed by them.

I have read this correspondence with great interest, and, in obedience to your Lordship's instructions, I have been careful not to initiate any discussion of this incident with Count Berchem, but I had an opportunity to-day, when alluding to the pending negotiations with the Baptist Missionary Society, to intimate to him that it might be advisable to let the Governor of the Cameroons know that the territory of Victoria must, in any case, pending the result of those negotiations, be regarded as in all respects a possession of the British Crown.

Count Berchem asked me if I had any reason to believe that the Governor was in any doubt upon this point, and I replied that I had gathered from correspondence which I had seen that he was not quite clear as to the actual status of that Colony.

Count Berchem promised to have the Governor instructed in the sense I had desired.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES S. SCOTT.

No. 10.

The Earl of Rosebery to Mr. Scott.

(No. 186. Africa.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 22, 1886.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 60, Africa, of the 17th instant, reporting that you have intimated to Count Berchem that it might be advisable to inform the Governor of the Cameroons that the territory of Victoria must, pending the result of the negotiations with the Baptist Missionary Society, be regarded as in all respects a possession of the British Crown, and I have to state to you that I approve the language held by you on that occasion.

Mr. Johnston, British Vice-Consul in the Cameroons, has been informed of the

communication you made to Count Berchem, and of his promise to send instructions to the Governor.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 11.

Vice-Consul Johnston to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 23.)

(No. 13. Africa.)

My Lord,

Cameroons River, June 14, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's consideration, two recent communications from the German Governor of the Cameroons. One, a letter to the Rev. J. J. Fuller of the Baptist Mission, Cameroons; and the other, a written Ordinance sent to all the English residents in the river. The first, as your Lordship will perceive, confirms the threat alluded to in my despatch No. 12, respecting the hindrance or expulsion of the Baptist missionaries in the Cameroons. With regard to the second, I have as yet taken no steps to inquire why the hoisting of the English flag is forbidden. I have, in fact, for the present intermitted all official relations with the German authorities in the Cameroons. I came here in person, as I informed your Lordship in my despatch No. 12, hoping by personal intercourse with the principal officials, to resume those friendly relations which I felt, through no fault of my own, were suspended. I met, however, with such a discouraging and discourteous reception that I judged any more attempts to regain their good opinion would be humiliating, inasmuch as no one can tell me in what way I have personally offended or how I can offer redress.

I think it only right to state that it is solely with the Governor and Chancellor that I am at variance. From all the other Germans in the river I continue to receive a kindness and hospitality which are quite sufficient to convince me that the ill-feeling in question is a personal and not a national affair. I should also inform your Lordship that the Governor and Chancellor (the latter, Herr von Puttkamer, is just returning to Europe) have displayed as much ill-will towards the German merchants as towards those of British nationality. Complete accord exists, and the most friendly feeling prevails among all the traders in the river, both English and German. The common interests of trade seem almost more powerful than those of nationality, and the German merchants appear to have been more outspoken in their expressions of dissatisfaction with the course of action taken by the Governor in trade matters than their English associates, who are particularly circumspect at present.

The Governor of the Cameroons assumes a demeanour which would be amusing in a small Oriental potentate, but is hardly becoming to the Representative of a great European Power. He sometimes receives the merchants at Council meetings with an insulting violence of language and gesture that seems to them unwarrantable, and then seeks to soothe their wounded feelings at other times by unbending in a naïf and gracious familiarity that is equally unsuited to his position. I cannot resist expressing my surprise and regret that Germany, who has produced and who possesses more distinguished African administrators, students, and travellers than any other country except, perhaps, our own, can only find to send to her most important African Colony men whose whole previous experience has been gained in North America or Russia, who avowedly care nothing for Africa, whose one object is to pass the term of their exile in lethargic repose, and who resent savagely—I use this word after due reflection—any disturbance of the even tenour of their lives.

The lot of the British trader in the Cameroons at the present time is truly a hard one, and I do not wonder at the bitterness of feeling that prevails. He is taxed as much or more than he would be in a British West African Colony, and at the same time he is compelled to continue paying the tribute to native Chiefs which prevailed prior to the German occupation of the country. Nevertheless, he receives no protection from either side, native or German. When he finds trade stopped in the lower river by the tribe of "middlemen" known as the Dualla people, and would wish to penetrate some 30 miles up stream and trade direct with the peaceable, industrious populations of the interior, he is forbidden to do so by the German authorities, and informed that if he makes the attempt and is attacked by the Duallas, the German Government will afford him no protection. He may not fly his national flag, he may not cut firewood in the forest. He is restrained, restricted, and thwarted in all directions.

The German Government has now been in possession of the Cameroons almost two years. It has promised much and done nothing except impose a few taxes. A police force was to have been organized to patrol the unsettled districts—none exists. The English Mission was to receive encouragement and support: it is hampered and threatened with expulsion. Roads were to have been cut through the forests, bridges constructed, marshes drained, a sanatorium built, schools founded, a mail service subsidized, a post-office established, free trade with the interior opened up. What has been the outcome of these promises? Half of them have been revoked and the remainder forgotten. I do not hesitate to say that during the last half-year the commercial and political condition of the Cameroons has seriously retrograded, and that at no time in the history of its previous connection with European trade did the same critical relations between natives and white traders arise.

I have frequently asked the English traders here why, in the face of all these disadvantages, they remained in Cameroons, and why they did not proceed to some other portion of the coast under British protection or rule, where trade continues free and unhampered. They reply, like the missionaries, that they have sunk so much capital in the country in the purchase of land, the building of houses, and the permanent mooring of "hulks," that they hesitate to withdraw and abandon their immovable possessions. Besides, they are also unwilling to take such a step till the debts owing to them by the natives have been repaid.

In conclusion, I would state (from personal knowledge, the result of a recent visit) that in the interior of the Cameroons, at a distance of about 60 miles from the coast, within one day's steaming from the sea, the Germans possess one of the finest districts in Africa. Vast breezy plains, dotted with lofty mountains, and canalised naturally and artificially by fine navigable streams,* stretch over the wide basin of the Cameroons River. This country is endowed with the richest soil, and produces nearly all the trade products of Africa. It is inhabited by a thriving, industrious, and peaceful people, who are far superior in civilization to the coast population, and who are most anxious to enter into direct trade with the white man. Their agriculture and stock-breeding produce an abundance and variety of food-stuffs quite lacking on the coast, where white men chiefly live on imported provisions.

It therefore seems to me so regrettable that the German officials, instead of passing all their time in the unhealthy districts near the mouth of the river, where the climate alone has a distressing influence on the temper, should not devote themselves to the agreeable task of opening up the fine regions of the interior to European commerce. This is a question of such importance to the future of British trade in the Cameroons, that I would earnestly impress it on your Lordship's notice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 11.

Baron von Soden to the Rev. J. J. Fuller.

(Translation.)

Cameroons, May 21, 1886.

CONFORMABLY to your wish, I have the honour to repeat in writing the recent communication which Herr Kanzler von Puttkamer made to you verbally on my behalf.

With respect to the concession made to you by the Imperial Government† on the 23rd February, 1886, concerning the settlements of the Baptist Missionary Society already erected, or about to be erected, in the German Protectorate, I have already replied verbally that respecting the above-mentioned concession ("Eingabe") it would be more to the purpose if the Society in London would address his Serene Highness Prince Bismarck on the subject, because I, for my part, am not in a position to give a definite answer.

Privately and confidentially I might say I was disposed to favour a conditional promise on the part of his Serene Highness, so far as the admission of the Mission was concerned, and I also believe that certain equitable conditions should be attached to this permission.

Since then, the British Vice-Consul, Mr. Johnston, has recently informed me that Victoria is an English Colony, and that he is appointed its "Administrator,"‡ so I here-

* The natives are continually diverting the water of the main river into subsidiary canals.

† Of the Cameroons.

‡ This statement of the Governor's is somewhat incorrect. I did not inform him that I was "appointed" the Administrator of Victoria, but that I was empowered to administer its affairs.—H. H. JOHNSTON.

with retract my former concessions, because the above circumstances, in combination with the recent activity and desire for action on the part of the new Administrator, give little hope that the continued toleration of an English Mission in the German Protectorate will prove reconcilable with the intentions of the Imperial Government.

When, therefore, the London Baptist Mission, on the strength of this above-mentioned concession, seeks to extend its operations without the permission of his Serene Highness, they will do so at their own risk.

Moreover, although as already stated, I have not taken a decided part in the question, your Mission will always have, under existing circumstances, to reckon me among its enemies.

The Imperial Governor,
(Signed) VON SODEN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 11.

Ordinance No. X.

(Translation.)

THE Imperial Governor hereby informs all whom it may concern that from this day until further notice the hoisting of any other national flag but the German is forbidden.

Accredited Consuls, merchant-vessels, and ships of war of foreign nationalities, so far as they do not navigate the affluents of the Cameroon River apart from its delta, are exempted from this prohibition.

The infringement of this Order will in every case be punished by a fine of 500 marks.

The Imperial Governor,
(Signed) VON SODEN.

Cameroons, June 7, 1886.

No. 12.

King Ja Ja to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 23.)

My Lord,

Opobo Town, June 18, 1886.

CONSUL HEWETT arrived here on the 15th instant, and requested me to appear at a meeting he held on the 16th instant. The result was a letter he sent to me dated the same 16th instant, the copy of which you will find herein inclosed. I wrote you before that Consul Hewett laid a fine of 30 puncheons oil on me which he forced me to pay, and I did, fearing he might think it disobedience on my part; but still, I reminded him that I will appeal to the Secretary of the Foreign Office, and depending on justice only, assured him that I have done nothing deserving such a fine. On the other hand, Consul Hewett still insists that I should refund to the agents all what have been paid to me as "shake-hand," which was paid to me on account of gaining my trade, the same I have rendered its service.

My Lord, in one of my previous letters I have explained to you the institution of this custom, and why it has been paid to me, my Chiefs, as well as to the Kings and Chiefs of Bonny from time, and have referred you to make inquiries from the older traders as to whether they institute it themselves or were forced to pay.

My Lord, we are now British Protectorate, and as such deserves British justice. Consul Hewett's actions all the time shows that he believe on only white men, and seems to him that no black man is to believe though he speaks the truth, which make me feel very sorry for having being born a black man.

My Lord, if I have done anything ignorantly against Her Britannic Majesty's Government on the past time I beg to be forgiven, and look into the present matter.

My Lord, I must complain to you that I do not see my way to pay the fine Consul Hewett make me to pay, and more also to refund "shake-hand," which has been old custom ever since palm oil trade opened in Bonny River. If Consul Hewett wants to abolish it I may understand him, but to force me to refund it I do not see my way. I pray that my Lord may look into the matter and give the right to whoever deserve it. It is fact that you are not at foot to know the real state of things, and sorry, my Lord,

you are no god to know my mind, whether I speak true or false. I say this, my Lord, out of feelings.

I beg, &c.
(Signed) JA JA.

Inclosure in No. 12.

Consul Hewett to King Ja Ja.

Dear Sir,

"Alecto," River Opobo, June 16, 1886.

WITH reference to what you stated at the meeting this morning, I think better to inform you that, in communicating with Lord Rosebery on the subject of the opening trade "dash," or, as you call it, "shake-hand," I shall have to report that I heard nothing to induce me to change the opinion which I formed after the palaver in March last, viz., that the 7 puncheons paid by each agent here is in reality a forced payment in opening his trade.

As to empty casks, I cannot make any alteration on the rate at which their value is to be originally, in oil, viz., 3 empty casks equal to 1 puncheon of oil. With regard to the trust being paid up, I was glad to learn that good progress had been made in this, with only one exception, Chief Opoporh. I would beg you to warn him that, if he fails to pay Mr. Hall, severe disgrace will befall him.

Before concluding, I must express my hope that, in future, I shall have no complaint from the European traders here of your returning letters which they may find it necessary to address to you. This is not a proper fashion for you to adopt, and being very discourteous I cannot approve of it.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD HYDE HEWETT.

No. 13.

Vice-Consul Johnston to the Earl of Idlesleigh.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 14. Africa.)

My Lord,

Mondole Island, June 17, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to forward your Lordship a brief Report of a visit I have recently paid to the upper portion of the Cameroons River, or, more strictly speaking, to the upper portion of its navigable course, with a hope, should your Lordship see fit, that it may be communicated to the Royal Geographical Society, together with the accompanying Map.

This latter has been compiled from my own observations, and from careful notes made by English missionaries and traders who were kind enough to communicate to me the information they had acquired.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure in No. 13.

Report on a Journey up the Cameroons River, from Bell Town to Wuri and Budiman.

FINDING I had a week to wait in the Cameroons River before the arrival of the mail-steamer, I resolved to make a short trip up the river as far as the country of Budiman, and for this purpose applied to my kind host, Mr. George Allen, of the Liverpool African Company, for the loan of a boat and a boat's crew. Both were granted me, and, moreover, as this expedition was quite impromptu, and all my ordinary travelling outfit was at Mondole, Mr. Allen further supplied me with a good assortment of necessaries and comforts for my river picnic. King Bell sent one of his sons to accompany me as interpreter, and also furnished an efficient guide to pilot me through the mazy channels of the river.

We left Bell Town at 11 o'clock A.M. on the 7th June, and kept close to the south bank of the river, which above Akwa Town broadens into a lake-like expanse, studded with mangrove islands. It needed some knowledge on the part of the pilot to steer the

boat through the most direct channel, and sometimes we passed through creeks so narrow that the high thickets of spiny pandanus nearly joined their branches above our heads. This was not, of course, the route that boats of any size or burden would follow, and like most short cuts, seemed to me less expeditious than the longer and simpler way, for what we gained in directness we more than lost in running aground. However, as branch after branch rejoined the main stream it recovered its simplicity and amplitude, and at the head of Jibare Island, where the river flows in a single channel, it presented at this season of the year the appearance of a noble stream varying from 700 to 1,000 yards in breadth.

The mangroves ceased at a distance of about 24 miles from the coast, but long before they disappeared they had no longer remained the chief components of the swampy forests. Pandanas, or "screw-pine," began to mingle with the mangrove low down in the delta, and gradually became the dominant feature by the riverside, being skirted, however, along the swampy shore by a fringe of tall *Lissochilus* orchids, which grew to a height of 6 feet from their base, and reared many a lovely head of large mauve blossoms.

As the soil grew firmer and higher, the pandanas dwindled and gave way, crowded out by lofty forest trees, acacias, albizzias, stexulias, bombaxes, eriodendrons, parinariums, and sycamores, while *Raphia* palms were striking objects with their mighty plume-like fronds and orange-red mid-ribs, and the oil-palm grew in graceful clusters, often leaning forward over the water for want of space to expand, and the lithe calamus palm scaled the topmost trees of the forest with its hooked fronds, and when it had clambered to their summits burst into grey-green blossom, and in some places already exhibited its scarlet ripened fruit.

A few settlements began to appear on the banks as soon as the land grew firm. They were colonies of Duala people from Bell Town principally, though every now and then might be encountered tiny settlements of totally different nationality, refugees from tribal wars in the interior. The houses of these villages were hardly visible, screened by the forest growth, though their smoke filtered here and there through the foliage, but their gardens began to occupy a continuous narrow strip along the waterside, and ousted the orchids and reeds which had hitherto prevailed.

After passing the mouth of the Yabian River, which descends from the country of Abo, we stopped for the night at a little village on the outskirts of Wuri. This was under the rule of a young Chief who is related by marriage to King Bell of Cameroons, but although a tidy, prosperous-looking village, it was too much under coast influence to be a pleasant resting-place.

The inhabitants could not see a white visitor in their town without continually plaguing him for rum, which they call "bilam." It is the beginning and end of their desires. You cannot greet an Elder of the tribe without his asking inquiringly, "Have you brought any rum?" or compliment his daughters without the same laconic question being raised, or even pat a fat and jocund baby, that its mother will not immediately take advantage of your condescension to proffer on behalf of herself and offspring the same monotonous request. I am glad to note, however, that the exclusive reign of ardent spirits in the Cameroons River is coming to an end. Certain trading firms—I should like to think from philanthropic motives—have begun to introduce British wines into the West African market, where they offer a formidable rivalry to the American rum and Hamburg gin that have hitherto pleased the native palate. Ginger wine is an especial favourite. Orange wine is much appreciated, and strong sweet raisin wine is coming into vogue. Many of the natives will not touch ardent spirits now, making these cheap sweet wines their festive beverage instead. Without doubt, this is a step in the right direction, and it is to be hoped that the traders will gradually educate the native taste in the right direction till it passes upwards from ginger wine to innocuous, wholesome ginger beer.

Shortly after leaving this village, where we had spent the night, we began to enter upon lovely scenery. About Bosambo, in Lower Wuri, a turn in the river disclosed a widening of the stream, where the water was of glassy stillness. The banks rose into nearly perpendicular cliffs of 100 to 200 feet in height, and these were clothed from top to bottom with the richest forest. The crowns of many of the trees must have risen another 100 feet above the summit of the cliffs. What made these wooded heights so beautiful was the fact that they offered a perfect African arboretum, exhibiting in orderly array a great variety of handsome trees and shrubs.

The river in the country of Wuri seemed to have many affluents and branches, few or none of which are marked on any map. Many of these were, I was informed, artificial canals cut by the natives to facilitate communication with the adjacent lowlands, and to

divert the superfluous water of the river in flood-time. At one place we actually witnessed a troop of men busy cutting a canal through the bank of red clay which rose some 6 feet above the stream.

The country of Wuri has a prosperous appearance, and seems to be well populated. It is, however, purely a riverain district. The banks of the Cameroons River, in this section of its course, are one continuous series of villages and plantations. The primeval forest is banished to the interior, where it is just visible in distant lines of gloomy purple green. The country at the back of Wuri, on both sides of the river, is exceedingly rich in the chief vegetable products of West Africa. The inhabitants, generally known as Basa, bring the palm-oil and sell it to the Wuri people, who again pass it on to the Dualla traders of the lower river.

Public opinion compelled us to stop at Bosua, the chief town of Wuri, although I did not wish to do so, as I heard the Chief would expect a big present if we made any stay in his town. However, to pass him without a salutation would have been impolitic, so we drew up the boat on a great spit of sand in front of his village and interviewed Etoka, as the Chief of Wuri is named. He was a very sullen-looking, dull-faced potentate. He sat under a big lime-tree on the low carved stools of the country, and all my attempts at conversation were fruitless. He inspected his present with a glum face, and expressed neither approval nor disapproval. He asked for something to drink, and I offered him at first claret, which he spat out with a wry face, and then ginger wine, of which he gulped down a pint. After this I gladly took my leave. Perhaps Etoka's sulkiness might have been due to the presence of King Bell's son, who accompanied me. Etoka had recently paid 200*l.* in goods for the honour of becoming matrimonially allied to King Bell, but some hitch in the last negotiations had occurred, and although Etoka had paid over his goods, the Princess Bell had not arrived, and a coolness had sprung up between the families.

On the evening of the second day we reached the last Wuri town on the confines of of Budiman—Banyon-Bosua. We had been travelling at a slow rate, for this place is attainable in twelve hours' hard rowing from Bell Town, being about 30 miles distant.

Here we met with a most cordial reception, the Chief, Ngaka, seeming determined to impress me with the sincerity of his declaration "that he longed to see white men come to settle in his town, and that he wished to be regarded as the white man's friend." His house was one of the most comfortable I have ever met with in an African village, and bore witness to the civilization of the owner. It was built, like all the houses between Old Calabar and the Congo, on a platform of beaten earth raised nearly 3 feet above the street. The floor inside was quite hard, like cement, and seemed to be of worked clay hardened by the action of fire. A native bedstead stood in a recess at each end of the one room, and over both bedsteads gay-coloured mosquito curtains hung. In the centre of the apartment was placed a huge table only raised some 18 inches from the ground, and covered with a white cloth. On this was neatly arranged all my host's collection of pottery and glass-ware. This included several big claret jugs, "Uncle Toby" mugs, and "sitting-hen" butter-dishes. There were also, strange to say, two little jugs of Doulton ware. It seemed a curious thing to encounter these in the interior of West Africa. Along one side of the room ran a massive wooden settle, on which were piled rows of tin boxes containing the proprietor's chief valuables. Near the beds were placed high wooden sideboards or buffets. All these articles of furniture—the table, settle, and buffets—were entirely of native workmanship, and were made from native woods. There was an unusual amount of skill in their construction, and it was remarkable that they were made by joinery, and not merely carved out of solid blocks, as is the usual fashion in Savage Africa. A number of pretty and fancifully-designed stools completed the furniture.

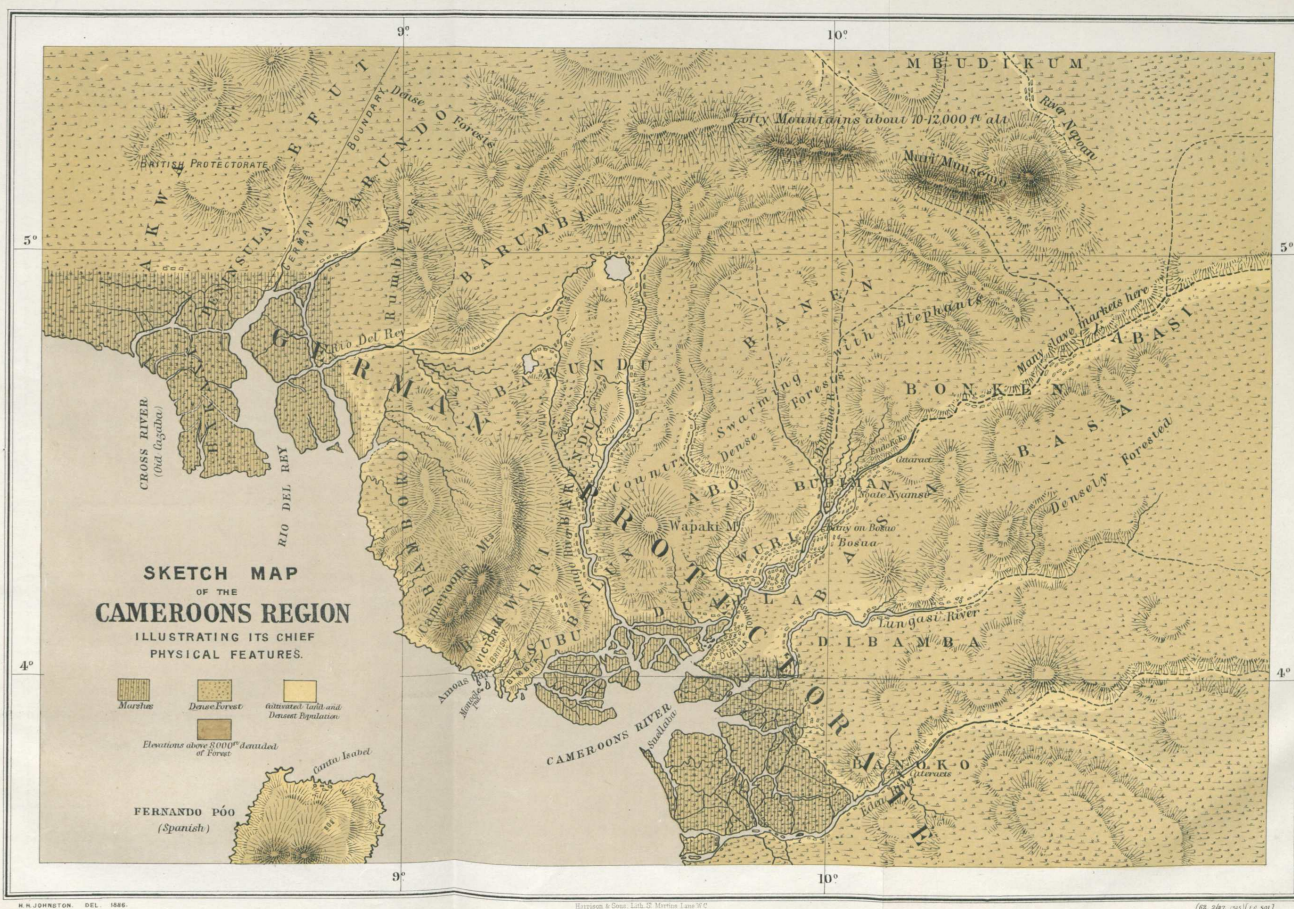
A few minutes after our arrival a quantity of young cocoa-nuts had been opened and their milk poured into the claret jug, and this with a tumbler was placed before me. Our luggage was speedily brought into the house and neatly stored away, and another dwelling was assigned to the Kruboyas as a cook-house, or rather I should say another compartment of the same dwelling, for the houses here were built in long continuous blocks and divided by thin partitions into separate abodes.

Although the majority of the inhabitants had never seen a white man before, they did not annoy me by any mobbing or following in my walks abroad. When I sauntered through the town (which is about 1 mile long and only some 100 yards wide, with a succession of short broad streets running transversely to the course of the river) I was greeted politely by the groups of industrious people, who all seemed to have their own business to attend to. Many were engaged in drying ground-nuts on large mats, others

were making fishing-nets, several women were busily moulding great shapely pots out of clay, turning and shaping them with the hand, engraving droll little patterns on them with a sharp stick, and afterwards setting them in the sun to dry, pending their baking in an earth furnace.

The following day, early in the morning, we left our hospitable Chief of Banyon-Bosua with many promises to return, and continued the journey up stream in the direction of Budiman. The river ultimately widened and narrowed, and was studded with many islands and sand-banks. At its junction with the Dibomba an important affluent coming from the north, there was a wide expanse of water which I christened "Hippopotamus Pool," from the extraordinary numbers of these huge animals which suddenly made their appearance. This is generally the first place on the main river, coming from the coast, where they are encountered, although I am informed that in many of the small canals and unfrequented affluents lower down they are to be found in great numbers. I killed one hippopotamus here. I could hardly have done otherwise, for it raised its head so close to the boat and stared at us so steadily that I had two good shots at it and sent it spinning round and round in the water, spouting blood, and raising a surge that shook the boat. It finally sank to the bottom. A group of natives assembled on a sandy spit hailed its death with loud cries of joy. They told us it was a very vicious beast, that often smashed their fishing-canoes and prevented them from casting their nets in the middle of the pool. They announced their intention of remaining in the vicinity till the body floated to the surface, when they would tow it ashore and have a huge feast.

We arrived at the town of Ngale Nyamsi, the Chief of Budiman, about noon, and met with an even kinder reception than elsewhere. The same description of tidy house with home-made furniture and mosquito-curtained bed was placed at my disposal, and a liberal supply of food was sent, not only to myself, but to the Krumen. After a short rest and a meal I set off with my interpreter and some self-appointed guides to walk along the south bank of the river in the direction of the falls, or rather rapids. I left my boat at Ngale Nyamsi's because it was very slow work pulling up against the strong current. We first walked for 2 miles through a continuous and pretty town, where fine shady trees alternated with short broad streets running at right angles to the river. Everywhere among the teeming population the same aspect of cheerful industry prevailed, and nowhere did we meet with obtrusive curiosity. Some of the old men rose as we approached and shook hands with a formal greeting and then returned to their avocations. When the town had at last come to an end we went for some distance farther through tidy plantations of vegetables which had very much the look of market gardens in England, and at length entered a fine stretch of forest where, we were told, a colony of chimpanzees had their abode. The path wound tortuously to a height of about 500 feet above the river, and then through a break that occurred in the dense foliage we obtained a splendid view stretching from east to west, embracing the course of the river and exhibiting a panorama of unknown lands. The afternoon was singularly clear, and I obtained a fine view of a grand chain of fantastically peaked mountains lying due north of the river. Whether these remarkable heights have ever been noticed before by European observers, I cannot say. They are not definitely marked on any map I have as yet seen. Nevertheless, they are visible from Wuri on a clear day. From native information I should calculate them as lying about 50 or 60 miles distant from where I stood. Lines of white cumulous cloud separated their bases from the horizon, which gave them an added look of height. Compared with the elevation above the horizon of the Cameroons Mountain, which was distinctly visible to the westward at a distance of over 50 miles, I should be disposed to roughly estimate the height of the two largest peaks in this new chain at between 10,000 and 12,000 feet, but it is quite possible they may prove higher. In appearance they seemed far more distant than the Cameroons Mountain, being simply blue silhouettes on the horizon, while on the latter a certain amount of detail could be perceived. No one hereabouts knew the names of these mountains, except one of the loftier, which they called "Muri Munsemu" (the Munsemu Mountain). When I had finished my sketch of these distant peaks, and taken their bearings, both which proceedings caused a good deal of whispered discussion among the natives, we proceeded a little farther till we came to the very prettily-situated village of Msaga (Msagha). This lay on a platform of red clay about 300 feet above the river valley. It embraced beautiful views of the surrounding country, and more chains of dim and far-off mountains opened out to the eastward. The people here had never seen a white man before, at least so they all asseverated, except two slaves from the Ndobo country in the far interior, who somewhat proudly asserted that they had done so in former years, before they were sold into slavery, but they added that white men were



bad, and they refused to come near me. Afterwards it appeared that their country had been visited by Mahomedan slave-raiders who were sufficiently light in colour to be considered white men. I obtained a quantity of curious information about languages, tribes, and local geography in this pleasant friendly village. I learnt that the lion often visited their country, and they also spoke of a big ape, probably the chimpanzee, as inhabiting their forests.

I returned to Ngale Nyamsi's town and spent the night there. In the morning before starting I made the Chief a small present of cloth and fancy goods, for which he was unexpectedly grateful. He was the first West African Chief that ever thanked me for a present. Over and above this courtesy, he gave me a fat goat (which is now at Mondole), half-a-dozen fowls, and some delicious small bananas of a kind not grown on the coast. We parted with the most effusive expressions of friendship on both sides. Paddling down rapidly with the current we retraced our course as far as the Dibomba River, which I ascended for a distance of 6 or 7 miles, and where I spent the greater part of the day hippopotamus-shooting. We returned to Banyon-Bosua, the town of our friend Ngaka, to pass the night, and leaving this place at dawn the next day rapidly descended the river at the rate of 6 miles an hour, and stopping occasionally on the way to sketch or lunch, I arrived at Bell Town beach about 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

I again took up my quarters with my friend Mr. George Allen, pending the arrival of the steamer which was to take me back to Mondole.

A brief résumé of my observations during this trip may be of interest.

I was certainly impressed with the fact that in many particulars these people of the interior were in a more satisfactory state of civilization than the population dwelling near the coast, in constant contact with the white men. In the towns of Wuri and Budiman there is a notable regard for cleanliness and order. A thing that especially pleased me was the absence of disagreeable smells in the purlieus of the habitations. In place of the utter want of sanitary regulations which is characteristic of most African towns, you find here a strict regard paid to decency and health in the prohibition of defecation anywhere near the town, except in the neatly-built privies which are placed at intervals on the edge of the river-bank, overhanging the water. These are surrounded by a tall hedge with a masked entrance. Instead of encountering pigs wandering everywhere in search of garbage and wallowing in all the mud they can find, you only see in this country fat porkers confined in neat styes, with a little thatched house to sleep in; their food is brought them and they fatten quickly. The goats are tethered and the sheep are generally driven out to pasture. Only the dogs, which are very valuable in the eyes of the natives, being regarded as exceptionally toothsome meat, are allowed a great amount of licence. Like the domestic dogs in most parts of interior Africa they do not bark, and rarely howl. They bear considerable resemblance to the pariah dog of the East, but being well cared for are handsome sleek-looking animals. The Wuri people keep them principally as an article of food. The other domestic animals of these countries are the cat, the fowl, and the Muscovy duck. Oxen are kept by the Basa tribes in the interior, but for various reasons the Wuri people do not regard them with favour. I think they would certainly thrive in the fertile meadows along the banks of the river.

Fishing is a favourite occupation of the riverain people, who construct most elaborate fish-traps and casting-nets. The native children are very fond of keeping pets, especially birds in cages, and they catch and tame numbers of pretty little coots and blue-green gallinules, belonging to a diminutive species of porphyrio.

The agriculture in these lands of Wuri and Budiman is greatly superior to anything on the coast. The chief food-stuffs grown are maize, yams, *colloensia arums* (called "coco yams" on the coast), sweet potatoes, sugar-cane, ground-nuts (very good quality, full of oil), manioc, a kind of bean (*phaseolus*?), pumpkins, and a small kind of gherkin, plantains, and bananas. They also cultivate a huge gourd for the sake of the natural bottles it produces, and the orange, lime, pineapple, cocoa-nut, and mango have been introduced from the coast, and are much more attentively planted and cared for than among the indolent coast people.

With the products of their forests they are tolerably well acquainted, and know how to procure rubber, ebony, and camwood; but I was informed that the Dualla traders never care to buy anything but palm-oil, palm-kernels, and ivory, and consequently the people of the interior do not attempt to collect anything else for the markets. When the tyranny of the middle-men is over, and the German Government permits the white merchants to trade direct with the producers, no doubt a great impetus will be given to the exploitation of the rich and varied products of the country. Ivory of excellent quality might be procured from the immense herds of elephants which frequent the vicinity of the Cameroons River, but the present inhabitants are afraid to attack these

animals, and procure their ivory from the tribes of the far interior. One of the principal ivory marts to which they occasionally resort is Gasa, an emporium which they say is situated near a big deep river, flowing south, doubtless a northern affluent of the Congo. Here (they say) come merchants from "Adama" (Adamawa?) with faces like white men.

The country about Wuri and Budiman struck me as being a particularly pleasant land. Apart from the good humour and contentment which characterize its inhabitants, there is a cheerfulness in the wide landscapes that should exercise a beneficial effect on the temperament of settlers and colonists. Great breezy prairies stretch across the river basin, marked in places by the intense verdure of plantations, but mostly an unvarying yellow-green where the rank grass has not been cut. Here and there a long, winding ribbon of purple-green forest indicates the hidden course of a stream. The sameness of the level plain is broken along the horizon by the pale blue forms of lofty mountains which lend an element of grandeur and mystery to the comfortable landscape of neat pastures of beans and arums, waving fields of maize, and glistening groves of plantations in the immediate foreground.

The Cameroons River, which is the natural waterway to this desirable country, has no distinctive name among the dwellers on its banks. The Dualla people call it "Madiba ma Dualla" (the Dualla Water), but this is clearly inapplicable to anything but its delta, where the Dualla are settled. In Wuri and Budiman it is simply called "Mwanja," which means "Great Water" and is a sufficiently interesting word in itself, showing how widespread are certain word-roots among the Bantu races. "Mwanja" or "Mu-anja," when the prefix "mu" is subtracted, simply leaves the root "anja," which, in the sense of a great sheet of water, a sea, or a broad river, is so constantly met with in the Bantu languages. It reappears in the Victoria and Albert "Ny-anza," and in Lake Nyanja (Nyassa). Although Cameroons is a sufficiently paltry term in itself to indicate an important stream (for it is simply a corruption of the Portuguese "camarões"—shrimps) yet it is now in common use, and may continue to indicate the main branch which flows down through Boukeu, Yabasi, Budiman, and Wuri. The other affluents have already got distinctive names.

The Cameroons River is in flood during the months of July and August. In January it is at its lowest, and is then bestrewn with sand-banks. In Wuri it has a current of 2 to 3 miles an hour, and above Budiman this increases to the rate of 5 miles an hour near the last rapids. The influence of the tides extends to the mouth of the Yabian affluent, but the water does not become brackish until the vicinity of Akwa Town.

The people dwelling on the banks of the Cameroons River and its affluents all, as far as I can ascertain, speak languages belonging to the Bantu family. Most of these tribes seem to be considerably removed in culture from mere savages. Judging from what I hear of the kings and peoples dwelling on the upper waters of the river, I should say they were slightly tinged with the civilization of the Mahomedan Soudan. The Budiman traders are certainly in touch with the Moslem merchants of the Binué River, for from all accounts they seem to meet them at the slave and ivory markets of the interior. According to information given me by some of these persons, it would seem as if the Fula slave-raiders were yearly approaching nearer to the Cameroons River in their nefarious pursuits. I trust that before they arrive to devastate these peaceful lands the German power will be sufficiently established to repel them.

(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON,
Her Majesty's Vice-Consul.

No. 14.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received August 9.)

Sir,

Admiralty, August 6, 1886.

I AM commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the perusal of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter from the Commander-in-chief on the Cape of Good Hope and West Coast of Africa Station, dated the 29th June, stating that he had expressed his satisfaction to Lieutenant Goodrich, of Her Majesty's ship "Watchful," for the able manner in which he carried out his duties on the occasion of his visit to the Oil Rivers with Mr. Consul Hewett on board.

2. My Lords request that you will inform the Earl of Iddesleigh that they propose,

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with his concurrence, to approve of Lieutenant Goodrich's proceedings, a report of which was communicated to you in my letter of the 30th April last.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 14.

Rear-Admiral Grubbe to Mr. Macgregor.

Sir,

"Raleigh," at Simon's Bay, June 29, 1886.

WITH reference to the report from Lieutenant and Commander J. E. C. Goodrich, of Her Majesty's ship "Watchful," dated the 30th March last, on his visit to the rivers with Mr. Consul Hewett, I have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that I have expressed my satisfaction to Lieutenant and Commander Goodrich for the able manner in which he carried out that duty, and I trust their Lordships will indorse my action in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. HUNT GRUBBE.

No. 15.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir E. Malet.

(Separate.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 6, 1886.

THIS despatch will be presented to your Excellency by the Rev. Mr. Baynes, the Secretary to the Baptist Missionary Society, who is proceeding to Berlin for the purpose of continuing in person the negotiations which have, as your Excellency is aware, for some time past been proceeding between the German Government and that Society for the sale of the Mission Settlement at Victoria, Ambas Bay; and I have to request your Excellency to afford Mr. Baynes such assistance as you properly can in the business on which he is engaged.

I am, &c.
(Signed) IDDESLEIGH.

No. 16.

Mr. Scott to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 65. Africa.)

My Lord,

Berlin, September 9, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to state that Mr. Baynes, Secretary to the Baptist Missionary Society, called at Her Majesty's Embassy yesterday, and presented to me your Lordship's despatch, marked Separate, of the 6th instant.

Mr. Baynes had already seen Dr. Krauel, of the German Foreign Office, and had had a conference with the representatives of the Bâle mission, and he was in hopes that their negotiations for the purchase of the mission settlement at Ambas Bay would be satisfactorily concluded.

Mr. Baynes called again this morning to say that the negotiations had succeeded, and that an agreement had been come to in respect of the price to be paid for the land and houses of the Baptist missionaries, which I understood to be 2,000*l.* for the land and 2,000*l.* for the houses.

Part of this amount the Bâle mission is prepared to pay down at once in England, and the remainder at Victoria when the transfer of the property is completed.

Mr. Baynes, who leaves Berlin to-night for Brussels and London, proposes to communicate direct to your Lordship the details of the transaction, but at the same time to request that no decisive step with regard to the cession of the Colony to Germany may be taken until the transfer has been completed.

Count Bismarck and Dr. Krauel, whom I saw this afternoon, both expressed much satisfaction that the two Missionary Societies had been able to come to terms, and hoped that so soon as the transfer of the private property had been completed, Her

Majesty's Government would be prepared to cede their territorial rights there to the German Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. SCOTT.

No. 17.

Agreement between the Baptist Missionary Society and the Basle Mission for the Sale of Victoria, Amba Bay.—(Communicated by Baron Plessen, September 15.)

IT is hereby agreed between the Baptist Missionary Society and the Basle Mission that the Victoria Territory, West Africa, shall be bought from the Baptist Missionary Society for a sum of 2,000*l.*, and the Mission buildings at Victoria and Cameroons for a further sum of 2,000*l.* (as agreed previously), making in all a sum of 4,000*l.*, a moiety of which shall be paid on signature of Agreement, and the other on receipt of tidings from agent of Basle Mission having received possession.

In pursuance of this we hereby set out hands this 9th day of September, 1886.

(For Basle Mission),
(Signed) THEODOR VEHLER.
A. PFLEIDERER.

(For Baptist Mission),
(Signed) ALFRED HENRY BAYNES,
General Secretary, Baptist Missionary Society.

Berlin, September 9, 1886.

No. 17*.

Verbal communication by Baron Plessen, September 15, 1886.

BY an Agreement dated Berlin, the 9th September, 1886, the understanding with the Baptist Missionary Society has been arrived at which had been reserved in Lord Granville's and Count Münster's notes of the 29th April and the 7th May, 1885, respectively, on occasion of the negotiations for the delimitation of the Protectorate on the Gulf of Guinea.

The Imperial Government intend, therefore, as soon as the Agreement between the Baptist Missionary Society and the Basle Missionary Society has been carried into effect, to propose to Her Britannic Majesty's Government, in accordance with former understandings, to declare, by an exchange of notes *ad hoc*, the cession of Amba Bay (Victoria) to Germany.

No. 18.

Vice-Consul Johnston to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 18. Africa.)

My Lord,

Old Calabar, August 17, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 8 of the 6th July respecting the payment of the last instalment of the bond given by the Governing Council or "Court" of Victoria to his Excellency the German Governor of the Cameroons.

I have this day addressed a letter to his Excellency the German Governor (of which I inclose a copy), forwarding therewith a bill for 10*l.* on the Chief Clerk of the Foreign Office.

I propose to defray the amount of this last instalment of the Victoria bond from the revenue derived from the sale of gun licences in Victoria, which revenue your Lordship, in despatch No. 7 of the 22nd June, authorized me to apply to local purposes.

As this revenue is principally received in produce, and is not yet turned into cash (pending its purchase by merchants on the coast), I have thought it best to pay his Excellency the Governor immediately by a bill on the Foreign Office, asking the Chief Clerk to debit me with the amount, while I, on my part, will recoup myself as soon as

the Governing Council of Victoria shall have turned their stores of produce into cash. For various reasons I thought it best to settle the German Governor's claim at once, and not wait until money could be gradually raised in Victoria. I trust your Lordship will not think I have acted wrongly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure in No. 18.

Vice-Consul Johnston to Baron von Soden.

Sir,

Old Calabar, August 17, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, as the result of the Report I made to the Earl of Rosebery, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, respecting the payment of an indemnity to your Excellency's Government, on the part of the Governing Council of Victoria, for damages inflicted on the Batoki people, his Lordship has decided that, although your Excellency's action in the matter was not, strictly speaking, in accordance with the recognition of Victoria as a British possession, yet that, under the circumstances of the case, it was perhaps excusable. His Lordship, therefore, directs me to pay to your Excellency the sum of 10*l.* on behalf of the Government of Victoria in settlement of the last instalment of the bond owing to your Excellency by the "Court" or Governing Council of Victoria.

I have the honour to inclose a bill on the Chief Clerk of the Foreign Office, London, for the above amount. I would request your Excellency to be so good as to return to me the bond given by the "Court" of Victoria; also to send me a receipt for the bill for transmission to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

In conclusion, I venture to express my satisfaction that this question of the legality of the Victoria bond should have been submitted to the consideration of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and that his Lordship's decision should be in accordance with your Excellency's opinion; and, at the same time, I deeply regret that your Excellency should have imported into the consideration of the subject a personal feeling and a bitterness wholly disproportionate to its magnitude.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

No. 19.

Vice-Consul Johnston to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 19. Africa.)

My Lord,

Old Calabar, August 18, 1886.

I VENTURE to remind your Lordship of a passage in one of my earlier despatches (No. 9, Africa, April 5th), inquiring as to whether any steps had been taken by Her Majesty's Government for the securing of Mondole Island as a permanent site for the Vice-Consulate of the Cameroons which is now being built in that place. This question is greatly dependent on the ultimate political status of the island. Nevertheless, whether Mondole remains under British sovereignty or comes under German rule, it is equally important that some measures may be taken to legalize the occupation of the island by Her Majesty's Vice-Consul.

It is rumoured in the Cameroons that Germany will shortly enter into possession of Amba Bay, and that the local Government intends to make Mondole Island its headquarters. In this case it is not improbable that German officials may consider themselves under the same necessity of "expropriating" the Consular buildings on the desirable site of Mondole as they have done with regard to the houses of the Baptist Mission in Bell town, on the Cameroons River. In view of the unfortunate ill-feeling displayed towards me by the present Governor, it is only too probable that he would gladly avail himself of any power he might possess to make me vacate my present quarters, or even putting that possibility aside, and taking into consideration the strategical features of Amba Bay, it is not unlikely that he might be able to show me some urgent and valid reason for my dispossession.

On the other hand, supposing Mondole does not come under German sovereignty,

I have still no guarantee that I may remain in undisturbed possession. A few days ago, a would-be trader of British nationality applied to me for permission to occupy the beach at my landing-place, intending to open a trading establishment there. I emphatically declined to grant his request, but had he applied to the Baptist Mission for leave to occupy such a site, and had that leave been granted, I should have had no right whatever to intervene, although, as there is only one safe landing-place on the island, and that in close proximity to my house, such a neighbour would have been far from agreeable.

Although I have received, in despatch No. 3 of the 16th April, your Lordship's authorization to cause a boat-house, &c., to be built and a road from the beach to the house to be made, and although such things are of immediate necessity, I have as yet shrank from expending any public or private funds on the place, either in the improvements above alluded to, or in the furnishing of my house, or the laying out and planting of gardens—feeling discouraged from such expenditure by the present insecurity of my tenure.

My high opinion of Mondole as a healthful, beautiful, and conveniently-situated site for the establishment of my Vice-Consulate remains unchanged, and I am glad to find that all persons who have visited this island share my appreciation of its advantages.

Trusting that your Lordship will give these remarks a favourable consideration, I have, &c.

(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

No. 20.

Consul Hewett to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 19. Africa.)

My Lord,

Old Calabar, August 18, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to report that I delivered to Ja Ja on the 9th instant, at a meeting of the Chiefs of Opobo, your Lordship's reply to his protest against the decision I gave in March last. Although he demurred to the manner in which I ordered him to make the repayments to the agents, I am glad to be able to inform your Lordship that before I left he had given bills of exchange on an approved firm to the several agents for the amounts he had to refund to them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD HYDE HEWETT.

No. 21.

Foreign Office to Baptist Missionary Society.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 22, 1886.

I AM directed by the Earl of Idlesleigh to state to you, for the information of your Society, that Baron Plessen called at this Office on the 15th instant; and in making a verbal communication on the subject, also left a copy of the Agreement which, he stated, had been signed on the 9th instant at Berlin by yourself and a representative of the Basle Mission, relative to the transfer to that body of the Settlement of Victoria, Amba Bay, at present belonging to your Society; and I am now to request that you will be good enough to inform his Lordship whether the Island of Mondole is to be considered as included in this transaction.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 22.

Baptist Missionary Society to Foreign Office.—(Received September 24.)

Sir,

Baptist Mission House, 19, Farnival Street, Holborn,

London, September 23, 1886.

IN reply to your letter of yesterday's date, I am directed by the Committee of the Baptist Missionary Society to inform you that it is quite true that on the 9th instant, at Berlin, on behalf of the Baptist Missionary Society, I entered into an Agreement with

two representatives of the Basle Mission relative to the transfer to that body of the Settlement of Victoria, Amba Bay, belonging to the Baptist Missionary Society; and that, by that Agreement, the three islands in Amba Bay, including Mondole, have been agreed to be sold to the Basle Mission. The arrangement is that the purchase-money for the Victoria Settlement and certain buildings at the Cameroons shall be 4,000*l.*, half to be paid in London when the definite Agreement is signed, and the remaining half to be paid so soon as the Basle Mission shall hear from their agents that possession has been given. Until, of course, the entire sum of 4,000*l.* has been paid the present negotiations cannot be regarded as finally concluded; and until such time as the whole purchase-money has been paid, we shall be thankful if Her Majesty's Government will maintain the *status quo*.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED HENRY BAYNES,
General Secretary, Baptist Missionary Society.

No. 23.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir E. Malet.

(No. 223. Africa.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 1, 1886.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, copies of correspondence relating to the retention of Her Majesty's Vice-Consulate at Mondole Island after the territory is handed over to German control.

I am, &c.
(Signed) IDDESLEIGH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 23.

Vice-Consul Johnston to the Earl of Rosebery.

(No. 19. Africa.)

My Lord,

Old Calabar, August 18, 1886.

I VENTURE to remind your Lordship of a passage in one of my earlier despatches (No. 9, Africa, 5th April) inquiring as to whether any steps had been taken by Her Majesty's Government for the securing of Mondole Island as a permanent site for the Vice-Consulate of the Cameroons, which is now being built in that place. This question is greatly dependent on the ultimate political status of the island. Nevertheless, whether Mondole remains under British sovereignty or comes under German rule, it is equally important that some measures may be taken to legalize the occupation of the island by Her Majesty's Vice-Consul.

It is rumoured in the Cameroons that Germany will shortly enter into possession of Amba Bay, and that the Local Government intends to make Mondole Island its headquarters. In this case it is not improbable that German officials may consider themselves under the same necessity of "expropriating" the Consular buildings on the desirable site of Mondole, as they have done with regard to the house of the Baptist Mission in Bell Town, on the Cameroons River. In view of the unfortunate ill-feeling displayed towards me by the present Governor, it is only too probable that he would gladly avail himself of any power he might possess to make me vacate my present quarters, or even putting that possibility aside, and taking into consideration the strategical features of Amba Bay, it is not unlikely that he might be able to show me some urgent and valid reason for my dispossession.

On the other hand, supposing Mondole does not come under German sovereignty, I have still no guarantee that I may remain in undisturbed possession. A few days ago a would-be trader, of British nationality, applied to me for permission to occupy the beach at my landing-place, intending to open a trading establishment there. I emphatically declined to grant his request, but had he applied to the Baptist Mission for leave to occupy such a site, and had that leave been granted, I should have had no right whatever to intervene, although, as there is only one safe landing-place on the island, and that in close proximity to my house, such a neighbour would have been far from agreeable.

Although I have received, in despatch No. 3 of the 16th April, your Lordship's authorization to cause a boat-house, &c., to be built and a road from the beach to the

house to be made, and although such things are of immediate necessity, I have as yet shrunk from expending any public or private funds on the place, either in the improvements above alluded to or in the furnishing of my house or the laying out and planting of gardens, feeling discouraged from such expenditure by the present insecurity of my tenure.

My high opinion of Mondole as a healthy, beautiful, and conveniently-situated site for the establishment of my Vice-Consulate remains unchanged, and I am glad to find that all persons who have visited this island share my appreciation of its advantages.

Trusting that your Lordship will give these remarks a favourable consideration, I have, &c.

(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 23.

Foreign Office to Baptist Missionary Society.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 22, 1886.

I AM directed by the Earl of Iddesleigh to state to you, for the information of your Society, that Baron Plessen called at this Office on the 15th instant, and, in making a verbal communication on the subject, also left a copy of the Agreement which he stated had been signed on the 9th instant at Berlin by yourself and a representative of the Basle Mission, relative to the transfer to that body of the Settlement of Victoria, Amba Bay, at present belonging to your Society; and I am now to request that you will be good enough to inform his Lordship whether the Island of Mondole is to be considered as included in this transaction.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 23.

Baptist Missionary Society to Foreign Office.

*Baptist Mission House, 19, Fumival Street, Holborn,
September 23, 1886.*

Sir,

IN reply to your letter of yesterday's date, I am directed by the Committee of the Baptist Missionary Society to inform you that it is quite true that on the 9th instant, at Berlin, on behalf of the Baptist Missionary Society, I entered into an Agreement with two representatives of the Basle Mission relative to the transfer to that body of the Settlement of Victoria, Amba Bay, belonging to the Baptist Missionary Society, and that, by that Agreement, the three islands in Amba Bay, including Mondole, have been agreed to be sold to the Basle Mission. The arrangement is that the purchase-money for the Victoria Settlement and certain buildings at the Cameroons shall be 4,000*l.*, half to be paid in London when the definitive Agreement is signed, and the remaining half to be paid so soon as the Basle Mission shall hear from their agents that possession has been given. Until, of course, the entire sum of 4,000*l.* has been paid, the present negotiations cannot be regarded as finally concluded; and, until such time as the whole purchase-money has been paid, we shall be thankful if Her Majesty's Government will maintain the *status quo*.

With, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED HENRY BAYNES,
General Secretary, Baptist Missionary Society.

Inclosure 4 in No. 23.

Foreign Office to Vice-Consul Johnston.

(No. 13.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 1, 1886.

I AM directed by the Earl of Iddesleigh to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 19 of the 18th August last, stating that, owing to the past action of the German Government of the Cameroons, you are under certain apprehensions with regard to the

security of the tenure of Mondole Island as a site for the residence of Her Majesty's Vice-Consulate when that territory shall pass under German control.

In reply, I am to state to you that, although it has been ascertained from the Baptist Missionary Society that Mondole Island will, when the negotiations between that Society and the Basle Mission are completed, be handed over to Germany, Lord Iddesleigh has no present reason to believe that the Imperial Government would, on the accomplishment of the transfer, move in the matter of the removal of your Vice-Consulate.

As, however, it is expedient to be prepared to meet such an eventuality, should it arise, I am to instruct you to keep his Lordship informed of any circumstances which may occur, and which, in your opinion, tend to confirm the suspicions that you entertain.

I am to add that, before the consent of Her Majesty's Government is given to the final handing of the Victoria Settlement to Germany, such steps will be taken as may seem requisite to insure the continuance of the Vice-Consulate in its present situation, but that, in the meanwhile, Lord Iddesleigh approves of your action in not spending further sums on the completion of the Consular boat-house and the approach to the Consulate.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 24.

Foreign Office to Vice-Consul Johnston.

(No. 13.)

Foreign Office, October 1, 1886.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Earl of Iddesleigh to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 19 of the 18th August last, stating that, owing to the past action of the German Governor of the Cameroons, you are under certain apprehensions with regard to the security of the tenure of Mondole Island as a site for the residence of Her Majesty's Vice-Consulate, when that territory shall pass under German control.

In reply, I am to state to you that, although it has been ascertained from the Baptist Missionary Society that Mondole Island will, when the negotiations between that Society and the Basle Mission are completed, be handed over to Germany, Lord Iddesleigh has no present reason to believe that the Imperial Government would, on the accomplishment of the transfer, move in the matter of the removal of your Vice-Consulate.

As, however, it is expedient to be prepared to meet such an eventuality, should it arise, I am to instruct you to keep his Lordship informed of any circumstances which may occur, and which, in your opinion, tend to confirm the suspicions that you entertain.

I am to add that, before the consent of Her Majesty's Government is given to the final handing of the Victoria Settlement to Germany, such steps will be taken as may seem requisite to insure the continuance of the Vice-Consulate in its present situation, but that, in the meanwhile, Lord Iddesleigh approves of your action in not spending further sums on the completion of the Consular boat-house and the approach to the Consulate.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 25.

Foreign Office to the Law Officers of the Crown.

Foreign Office, November 8, 1886.

Gentlemen,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, by direction of the Secretary of State, the papers noted in the accompanying list,* which relate to the proposed cession to Germany of the British possession known as Victoria, Amba Bay.

* Law Officers' Report on Cession of Gambia; Law Officers' Report on Exchange of Indian territory; Arrangement between Great Britain and Germany (Spheres of Influence in Africa); Law Officers' Report on Conquest of Upper Burmah; Memorandum from Colonial Office, May 1875.

By the arrangement which was concluded in 1885 between Great Britain and Germany for separating and defining their mutual spheres of action in certain parts of Africa, it was agreed (amongst other things) that both Powers should withdraw any Protectorates which might have been already established within the limits to be assigned by either Power to the other.

A reservation was, however, specially made with respect to the "Settlement of Victoria, Ambas Bay," which was to continue to be a "British possession" unless and until the German Government should come to an understanding with the English Missionary Society who had settled there in regard to the sale of their property, in which event it was stated by Her Majesty's Government that any difficulty as to the cession of Ambas Bay would disappear, and that they would agree to that Settlement also being included in the territories to be placed, in accordance with the arrangement, under German protection.

The Missionary Society having now sold their property at Ambas Bay, Her Majesty's Government are consequently desirous of carrying out their engagements towards Germany in respect of that Settlement.

This engagement was not, however, made conditional upon Her Majesty's Government first obtaining Parliamentary sanction to the withdrawal of the British Protectorate over Ambas Bay, and the question arises whether it is within the competence of the Crown to make the contemplated cession without the previous assent of Parliament.

Such a cession would seem to be properly described as part of a scheme of territorial partition or exchange, and in view of the Report of the 3rd June, 1884, of the then Law Officers of the Crown, it is not unimportant also to observe that Ambas Bay is not subject to Parliamentary Government, nor possessed of a representative Legislature.

I am to request that you will take the papers transmitted herewith into your consideration, and that you will favour the Earl of Iddesleigh with your opinion on the question submitted in this letter, and with any general observations which you may have to offer on the case.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 26.

The Baptist Missionary Society, London, and the Basle Evangelical Missionary Society.

Agreement for Sale of Mission Premises at Victoria and Cameroons, on the West Coast of Africa, dated October 26, 1886.—(Communicated to the Earl of Iddesleigh by Count Hatzfeldt, November 16.)

AN Agreement made the 26th day of October, in the year of our Lord 1886, between the Baptist Missionary Society of London, England, represented and acting by Joseph Tritton, of Lombard Street, London, banker, Treasurer of the said Society, and Alfred Henry Baynes, of the Baptist Mission House, London, General Secretary of the said Society, of the one part, and the Institution located at Basle, in Switzerland, commonly called the Basle Evangelical Society, represented and acting by the Rev. Theodore Oehler, of Basle, Inspector of the Basle Evangelical Missionary Society, of the other part.

1. The said Baptist Missionary Society agrees to sell, and the said Basle Evangelical Missionary Society agrees to purchase, of the said Baptist Missionary Society, on the terms hereinafter mentioned—

1. The Territory of Victoria, on the West Coast of Africa, comprising the Settlement and land of Victoria, and the three islands in Ambas Bay, and all the land at Victoria and the buildings erected thereon, owned and held by the said Baptist Missionary Society as described and referred to in the Declaration of Joseph Jackson Fuller, made at the Mansion House, London, the 25th day of April, 1885, and the chart annexed thereto, except the site of the chapel and schoolhouse there as now fenced around, which said chapel and schoolhouse are now in the possession of the Native Baptist Church there;

And secondly—All the land and buildings at Cameroons, on the West Coast of Africa, now in the possession of the said Baptist Missionary Society, comprising the Bethel Station Mission House, Bethel Cottage, Mertonville, or Hickory Town, Dibumbari Station, Dikolo Station, Bakundu Station, and Jabari Station, &c., not including Bell Town House and Townhead Station, and as to Bethel Chapel, subject to the stipulations concerning the same hereinafter contained.

2. The purchase-money is to be the sum of 4,000*l.*, one-half of which shall be paid to the vendors on their receipt on the execution and handing over of this Agreement, and the remaining sum, 2,000*l.*, shall be paid to the vendors on and immediately after the receipt of information that the purchasers or their agent have received possession of the property so agreed to be sold.

3. The said sale and purchase is subject to the following conditions and stipulations to be observed and fulfilled by the Contracting Parties, that is to say:—

1. The title of the vendors to the Territory of Victoria and the islands in Amba Bay shall commence with the grant from the native owners made to the late Rev. Alfred Saker, Missionary and Agent of the said Baptist Missionary Society, dated on or about the 23rd day of August, 1858, and no other title shall be registered, and the title to the lands at Cameroons shall commence with the respective grants from the native owners made to the Rev. Dr. Prince and Mr. Alfred Saker, Agents of the said Society, in the year 1843, and others as set out below, and the Statutory Declaration of an officer of the said Society of undisturbed possession by the said Society for twenty years and upwards shall be accepted on proof of the vendor's title, and a similar Declaration as to lands (if any) not included in the said grants held by the said Society shall be accepted as good title to the same, and no further or other title shall be required.

The deeds and documents so referred to as set out are as follows, viz.:—

22nd November, 1843, grant from King Aqua, Bethel Station.

13th May, 1845, grant from Tom Mango and others, Dido Town.

30th December, 1863, grant from Prince Dido Aqua.

16th June, 1882, grant from Njanga Gladstone, Dibumbari.

23rd March, 1886, grant (confirmatory) from Njanga and Ngei-Jabari.

26th March, 1886, grant (confirmatory) from the Chief and Headmen of Hickory Town.

All the above deeds and documents and the Declarations hereinbefore mentioned, together with all other documents of title (if any), shall be handed over to the purchasers on the receipt by the vendors of the aggregate sum of 4,000*l.*, as hereinbefore mentioned.

2. Concerning the present Christians at Cameroons and Victoria, the Basle Evangelical Missionary Society promises to respect their conscientious religious convictions, particularly to allow adult applicants requesting baptism to be baptized by immersion as to those Christians who shall be converted under the administration of the Basle Evangelical Missionary Society. Child baptism will be introduced, and any controversy or agitation against this practice will not be suffered. The present Missionary Agents, who will enter the service of the Basle Evangelical Missionary Society, will be obliged simply to preach our common Gospel, and to abstain from every kind of opposition against the Basle Evangelical Missionary Society's views and practice. For the rest the common Laws of the Imperial Colonies will have to be obeyed throughout the lands subject to this Agreement.

3. The said Basle Missionary Society agrees to allow to the Baptist Church, now constituted and meeting at Bethel Chapel, at Cameroons, the free use jointly with the said Society of the said chapel; but should this arrangement prove unsatisfactory to either party, then the said Baptist Church shall relinquish the same, and thereupon the said Basle Missionary Society shall pay 100*l.* to the Baptist Missionary Society for the erection of a new chapel for the use of the said Baptist Church; and on and after such payment the said Basle Society may and shall have the exclusive use of the said Bethel Chapel.

4. The chapel and schoolhouse now erected at Victoria and their sites as at present fenced in shall remain in full possession of the Church constituted and meeting there, and their successors in such Church may whenever it desires at the instance of the said Baptist Missionary Society declare trusts thereof for their use and benefit.

5. The said Basle Evangelical Missionary Society shall maintain in their present state as far as may be the graves of missionaries and others who have been buried under the care of the Baptist missionaries at Cameroons and in Victoria, and shall keep and preserve in their present situation the memorial tablets of deceased missionaries and others in the Bethel Chapel aforesaid.

6. The native preachers and teachers now employed by the said Baptist Missionary Society in connection with their missionary work at Cameroons and Victoria shall, if they or any or either of them shall so desire, be retained as agents of the said Basle Evangelical Missionary Society as a trial, and at the option of the Basle Evangelical Society.

7. The furniture, stores, plant in Africa, Dualla Scriptures, schoolbooks, and publications in the various mission stations of the said Baptist Missionary Society or in England prepared for the same shall, as far as the Basle Evangelical Missionary Society wishes to have them, be taken at a valuation to be made by two referees, one nominated by each of the said parties and the umpire nominated by such referees, in case

they shall not agree, unless the said parties hereto shall agree on the price of the said articles.

8. The sale hereby agreed upon is subject to all existing legal registered contracts, agreements for sale of plots, or for leasing or occupation, and, generally, to all engagements heretofore made by the said Baptist Missionary Society or their agents, and to all rights whatsoever heretofore granted by them in the said lands and territory, or any part thereof.

Lastly. The vendors will at any time, on request by the purchasers after the payment to them of the remainder of the said purchase-money, make and execute any power of attorney, conveyance, or other document, or consent to any act of registration which may be proper for more effectually conveying and transferring the said property to the purchasers, such conveyance or other document to be prepared by and at the expense of the purchasers.

As witness the hands of the said parties.

Signed by the above-named Joseph Tritton.

(Signed) JOSEPH TRITTON.

In the presence of,
(Signed) JESSIE MARGARET TRITTON.
BLOOMFIELD, Norwood, Surrey Square.
S. R. PATTISON, 11, Queen Victoria Street,
London, *Solicitor*.

Signed by the above-named Alfred Henry Baynes, in the presence of witnesses.

No. 27.

Count Hatzfeldt to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received November 18.)

(Translation.)

My Lord.

German Embassy, November 17, 1886.

IN Lord Granville's note of the 29th April last year to the Imperial Ambassador in London respecting the delimitation of German and English territory in the Gulf of Guinea, it was stated that the Baptist Missionary Settlement of Victoria, in Amba Bay, was to remain for the time being a British possession. In a second note of the same day's date Lord Granville repeated, in concurrence with the Secretary of State for the Colonies, his assent to the assurance, already agreed to verbally, that the cession of Amba Bay to Germany offered no practical difficulties, and that the English Government was ready to agree to it as soon as the Imperial Government should come to an understanding with the English Missionary Society.

The negotiations entered into with this object have now concluded by the sale to the Evangelical Missionary Society of Basle of all the possessions of the Baptist Missionary Society in Victoria and the Cameroons by a deed of the 26th ultimo, copy of which has been communicated to the Imperial Government, and where the conditions of the sale will be found in detail.

As the condition laid down in Lord Granville's note of the 29th April last year is thus fulfilled, I have the honour to state that I have been instructed by my Government to request your Excellency to express the agreement of the Government of Great Britain to the cession of Amba Bay to Germany, and to inform me of the measures taken in view of the cession in question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) v. HATZFELDT.

No. 28.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Count Hatzfeldt.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Foreign Office, November 26, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of the 17th instant with regard to the Settlement of Victoria, Amba Bay, and to inform you that it shall be fully answered as soon as certain points of detail which are under consideration can be settled.

I have, &c.

(Signed) IDDESLEIGH.

The Law Officers of the Crown to the Earl of Iddeleigh.—(Received December 14.)

My Lord,

Royal Courts of Justice, December 13, 1886.

WE were honoured with your Lordship's commands signified in Sir Julian Pauncefote's letter of the 8th ultimo, stating that he was directed by your Lordship to transmit to us the papers noted in the accompanying list* relative to the proposed cession to Germany of the British possession known as Victoria, Amba Bay.

That by the arrangement which was concluded in 1885 between Great Britain and Germany for separating and defining their mutual spheres of action in certain parts of Africa, it was agreed (amongst other things) that both Powers should withdraw any Protectorates which might have already established within the limits to be assigned by either Power to the other. That a reservation was, however, specially made with respect to the "Settlement of Victoria, Amba Bay," which was to continue to be a "British possession," unless and until the German Government should come to an understanding with the English Missionary Society, who had settled there, in regard to the sale of their property, in which event it was stated by Her Majesty's Government that any difficulty as to the cession of Amba Bay would disappear, and that they would agree to that Settlement also being included in the territories to be placed, in accordance with the arrangements, under German protection.

That the Missionary Society having sold their property at Amba Bay, Her Majesty's Government were consequently desirous of carrying out their engagements towards Germany in respect of that Settlement.

That that engagement was not, however, made conditional upon Her Majesty's Government first obtaining Parliamentary sanction to the withdrawal of the British Protectorate over Amba Bay, and that the question arose whether it was within the competence of the Crown to make the contemplated cession without the previous assent of Parliament.

That such a cession would seem to be properly described as part of a scheme of territorial partition or exchange, and that in view of the Report of the 3rd June, 1884, of the then Law Officers of the Crown, it was not unimportant also to observe that Amba Bay was not subject to Parliamentary Government, nor possessed of a representative Legislature.

That Sir Julian Pauncefote was to request that we would take the papers transmitted therewith into our consideration, and that we would favour your Lordship with our opinion on the question submitted in his letter, and with any general observations which we might have to offer on the case.

We were also honoured with Mr. Lister's letter of the 8th instant, in reply to a letter from this Department dated the 25th November, stating that he was directed by your Lordship to transmit to us a copy of an extract from a despatch dated the 16th May, 1884, in which Lord Granville instructed Consul Hewett to annex Amba Bay in Her Majesty's name, and also a copy of a despatch from Consul Hewett dated the 28th July, 1884, in which he informed Lord Granville that he had annexed the territory in question, and in which he inclosed the Proclamation which he† had issued to that effect.

That Mr. Lister was to add that no notice of the above annexation had appeared in the official Gazette.

We have taken the papers into our consideration, and, in obedience to your Lordship's commands, have the honour to report—

That it is not necessary to enter into the general question, whether the Crown can cede any part of British territory without the authority of Parliament; but we entertain very grave doubt whether the action of the late Government in concluding the Arrangement in question with Germany in 1885, without making that Arrangement subject to the approval of Parliament, can be justified. Having regard, however, to the circumstances now stated, and to the fact that, in pursuance of that Arrangement, the British subjects settled at Amba Bay have now sold their property and withdrawn from that territory, we think that the Government should not refuse the formal step needed to complete the cession, which was practically effected by the late Government.

We have, &c.

(Signed)

RICHARD E. WEBSTER.
EDWARD CLARKE.

* See No. 25.

† *Qy. notice.* See "Africa No. 1(1885)," p. 29.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 17, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit the accompanying draft of a note which it is proposed to address to the German Chargé d'Affaires, notifying the withdrawal of Great Britain from Victoria, Amba Bay, in consequence of the fulfilment of the condition reserved by Earl Granville in the Agreement with Count Münster of April and May 1885, through the sale of the entire property of the Baptist Missionary Society to the Basle Evangelical Society.*

His Lordship will be glad to learn, as soon as possible, whether Sir H. Holland concurs in the terms of the draft.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 31.

Vice-Consul Johnston to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received January 24, 1887.)

(No. 22. Africa.)

My Lord,

Mondole Island, Amba Bay, November 30, 1886.

PRIVATE information has reached me that the Baptist Missionary Society has practically concluded arrangements with the Basle Mission for the transfer of its extensive property in the Cameroons and at Victoria to the agents of the latter Society, and that consequently the sovereignty of the British territory of Victoria, Amba Bay, will be transferred to the Imperial German Government.

If this information be correct, I would respectfully urge on your Lordship the advisability of obtaining from the German Government some assurance that the local German authorities in the Cameroons will not be permitted to interfere with the establishment of the recently-erected British Vice-Consulate for the Cameroons on Mondole Island, Amba Bay, either by expropriating the buildings or curtailing the surrounding estate of about 12 acres, which has been cleared and partly inclosed at the expense of Her Majesty's Government; this same extent of land including the landing-place on the beach, which has been greatly improved since my residence on the island.

About two-thirds of Mondole remains in the possession of the local inhabitants.

The superior healthfulness of Mondole, and its central and very accessible position in the Cameroons district, render it a most desirable residence for Her Majesty's Vice-Consul acting in the German Protectorate.

Unfortunately, the methods usually employed by the German authorities in the Cameroons for acquiring advantageous sites or convenient buildings have not been hitherto consistent with international courtesy, nor even strict legality. I would venture to remind your Lordship that, up to the present time, the German public offices in the Cameroons River mainly consist of expropriated mission buildings, and that important sites belonging to the Baptist Mission have been occupied and built on without in either case rental or purchase-money having been paid.

Local gossips would insinuate that some such course is contemplated with regard to the desirable Vice-Consular residence on Mondole Island. The idea seems an improbable one, but, judging from what has already occurred in the Cameroons River, I venture most respectfully to bring it before your Lordship's notice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

No. 32.

Vice-Consul Johnston to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received January 24, 1887.)

(No. 23. Africa.)

My Lord,

Mondole Island, Amba Bay, December 21, 1886.

WITH regard to your Lordship's despatch No. 13, Africa, of the 1st October, respecting the tenure of the land at Mondole occupied by the Vice-Consular buildings, I

* See No. 36.

No. 32*.

Vice-Consul Johnston to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 24, 1887.)

(No. 24. Africa.)

My Lord,

Mondole Island, December 24, 1886.

I HAVE the pleasure to inform your Lordship that trade has now, for the past month, been completely reopened in the Cameroons River between the natives and the European traders, and that there are evident signs of the return of that commercial prosperity which was temporarily interrupted by the troubles following the German annexation. I believe I may even go so far as to say that there are indications of the advent of a greater prosperity and a wider commercial activity throughout the German Protectorate than this district has ever known before. The country is particularly rich in india-rubber, chiefly obtained from the creeper *Landolphia florida*, and the *Ficus elastica*, and the rubber trade is almost a new but a very promising branch of the local commerce.

I also foresee a large demand in the future for the valuable dye-woods and the fine timber with which this district abounds.

Owing to various causes which your Lordship will understand, I have been prevented from drawing up my annual Trade Report of the Cameroons district, but I hope to complete this undertaking by the early part of next year, and, at the same time, to forward, for your Lordship's inspection, samples of timber, dye-woods, rubber, and various other native products.

I am about to start on my expedition for the survey of the Rio del Rey (as directed in Lord Rosebery's despatch No. 5 of the 14th June), and as soon as this is completed I trust to be enabled to visit the British trading Settlements along the Batanga, coast and thus complete the commercial survey of my district.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

H. H. JOHNSTON.

have the honour to inclose a despatch, No. 22,* which I was about to forward to your Lordship by the previous mail when I received your Lordship's despatch No. 13, already alluded to.

Your Lordship will perceive that at the date at which my inclosed despatch was penned, I entertained apprehensions as to the course of action meditated by the German authorities with regard to Mondole. These apprehensions still exist, but they are less marked, owing to the great improvement which has lately taken place in my relations with the German officials in the Cameroons Protectorate. A conciliatory manner has been adopted by them, which I have not been slow to reciprocate; and I do not think that they would willingly adopt any plans with regard to Mondole which should necessitate the removal or expropriation of my Vice-Consular residence, the more so, as I have left untouched, and at any one's disposal, about two-thirds of the island, including the most strategic positions.

At the same time, seeing that I have spent a considerable sum out of my personal funds in decorating, furnishing, and rendering habitable the Vice-Consular residence, and in erecting various outbuildings and planting gardens, I should be greatly chagrined at any event which might entail the abandonment of the present building and site, as, in that case, nearly all my outlay would be irrecoverable. I, therefore, am glad that your Lordship proposes to request from the German Government, at the time of the transfer of sovereignty, an assurance that the Vice-Consular residence on Mondole shall be left undisturbed.

Pending this solution of the difficulty I still refrain from building a boat-house, as authorized by Her Majesty's Office of Works; but the other works, viz., making a road, clearing and levelling the building site, and erecting fences, authorized by the same Department, and referred to in Lord Rosebery's despatch No. 3 of the 16th April, 1886, I have naturally been compelled to carry out, and I now forward, under flying seal, to your Lordship, an account of the same for settlement by Her Majesty's Office of Works.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

No. 33.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 24.)

Sir,

Downing Street, January 22, 1887.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir Henry Holland to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, and, in reply, to request you to inform the Marquis of Salisbury that he concurs in the terms of the note which it is proposed to address to the German Chargé d'Affaires respecting the withdrawal of Great Britain from Victoria, Amba Bay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. H. MEADE.

No. 34.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Count Hatzfeldt.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Foreign Office, January 27, 1887.

WITH reference to my note of this day respecting the withdrawal of Great Britain from the Settlement of Victoria, Amba Bay, I have the honour to state that a Consular house has recently been erected on the Island of Mondole, in the bay, at the expense of Her Majesty's Government. I have to request that your Excellency would be good enough to request the German Government to give directions that this house and the land surrounding it, consisting of about 12 acres, may be recognized as the property of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

* See No. 31.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Count Hatzfeldt.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Foreign Office, January 27, 1887.

IN Earl Granville's note of the 29th April, 1885, it was stated that Great Britain, while engaging to withdraw her Protectorate from the territory in the Cameroon district included in the sphere of action of Germany, made a special reservation as to the settlement of Victoria, Ambas Bay.

His Lordship, in his second note of the same date, explained that, as there was no political necessity involved, the difficulty as to the withdrawal from that Settlement would disappear if the German Government could come to a satisfactory arrangement with the Baptist missionaries established there, and that the settlement could then be included in the German sphere.

I have the honour to state that as it is now known that the Baptist Missionary Society has sold its property to the Basle Evangelical Society, Her Majesty's Government are prepared to carry out Earl Granville's engagement.

It is proposed to instruct Her Majesty's Consul for the Bights of Benin and Biafra to proceed, as soon as possible, to Victoria in a man-of-war to remove the British flag, and to issue a Proclamation to the effect that in pursuance of the engagements entered into between the British and German Governments, the Settlement of Victoria will from the date of the Proclamation cease to form part of Her Majesty's dominions, and will thenceforth be placed under the Government of His Majesty the Emperor of Germany.

It is understood that the Rules for the regulation of trade and commerce recorded in Earl Granville's notes of the 16th May and the 10th June, 1885, and Count Münster's replies of the 2nd and 16th June, will apply to the Settlement.

I have to inquire whether the German Government would consider the course proposed to be sufficient, or whether they would suggest any further formality. It is presumed that instructions will be given which will secure the presence of a German man-of-war or of officials from the Cameroon Settlement to take over the local administration when the British flag is withdrawn.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

Count Hatzfeldt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 7.)

(Translation.)

My Lord,

German Embassy, February 4, 1887.

IN reply to the communication of the 27th ultimo respecting Ambas Bay, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I have been instructed to state that the Imperial Government agrees in the proposals made by the Government of Great Britain in regard to the formalities to be observed on the cession of Ambas Bay.

The Imperial Government in the Cameroons will therefore receive instructions to adopt the necessary measures for taking over the administration of the district of Victoria after the English flag has been withdrawn.

The Imperial Government also concurs with the opinion of the Government of Great Britain that the provisions with regard to trade and commerce which obtain in the German and English possessions on the Gulf of Guinea, and which are to be found in Lord Granville's notes of the 10th May and 10th June, 1885, and in Count Münster's notes of the 2nd and 16th June, 1885, shall also be applied to the Settlement at Ambas Bay.

I have, &c.

(Signed) v. HATZFELDT.

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No. 37.

Foreign Office to Vice-Consul Johnston.

(No. 2.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 7, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to inform you that his Lordship, in notifying to the German Ambassador the readiness of Her Majesty's Government to withdraw from the Settlement of Victoria, Amba Bay, requested that the building on Mondoleh Island, and the ground attached to it, might be considered as the property of Her Majesty's Government so long as it shall be required for Consular purposes.

I am to add that the Ambassador stated to-day that the German Government assented to this request, and had sent the requisite instructions to the Governor of the Cameroons.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 38.

Foreign Office to Consul Hewett.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, February 14, 1887.

DELAY exploration Rio del Rey most inconvenient. Send Johnston at once.

No. 39.

Foreign Office to Consul Hewett.

(No. 4. Ext.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 14, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acquaint you that great inconvenience has been caused both to the Governments of Great Britain and Germany by the delay that has occurred with regard to the exploration of the Rio del Rey.

In the despatch from this Department No. 18 of the 4th June last you were informed of the Earl of Rosebery's desire that Vice-Consul Johnston should undertake a visit to that district; since that date, however, no despatch has been received from you on the subject, and it does not appear that you have taken any steps to facilitate his departure.

Lord Salisbury has accordingly caused telegraphic instructions to be sent to you this day directing you to despatch Mr. Johnston without further loss of time.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 40.

King Ja Ja to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 15.)

My Lord,

Opobo, West Coast of Africa, January 13, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Lordship matters which were placed before Lord Rosebery during the time of his holding the office of Foreign Secretary, but without any satisfaction, and now, aware of your Lordship being in office, I beg again respectfully to place same before you, trusting that the several documents put before Lord Rosebery will be looked into and a satisfactory decision given.

2. That this river, which is mine, and under your Lordship's protection by virtue of a Treaty with myself and the Queen of England, does not show in any part of the Treaty between us that Her Britannic Majesty's Consul has a right of detaining or stopping any or either of the merchants of my river paying "comey" to me without any just cause for same, for which I am under a restraint at present with the traders of my river, they having stated that they are stopped from paying anything through the instructions of Consul Hewett.

I must also state that prior to my country being under Her Britannic Majesty's Protectorate I had never at any time any misunderstanding in this river with European traders or Consul.

I find now that through my allowing the Protectorate (which we then considered

would ultimately be the furtherance of trade, peace, and commerce in general, and also friendship firmly established with Her Britannic Majesty's Government and myself), there has always been a movement of strife by the Consul instead of what was previously contemplated by us; and I will be thankful for your Lordship's consideration of the matter, so that further disputes in my river with Consul Hewett or any other Consul which may be appointed in his stead from time to time may be avoided during my reign as King in this country. Should there be any meeting wherein my presence is required by him, upon my arrival in such a meeting there is only one continual abuse from him and nothing else, doing all that is in his power to irritate me that I may commit myself. I really do not think that your Lordship can justify these acts of his.

He, Consul Hewett, after placing an unjust fine of 30 puncheons palm oil, and also getting Lord Rosebery to make me refund certain presents, amounting to 300 puncheons palm oil, which have been from time to time delivered to me by the several merchants of my river on account of the amount of large trade done by me with them, he, still not satisfied by resting there, goes still further by granting the Kings of Brass, Bonny, New Calabar, and other places their right of "comey" and stopping mine. May I ask your Lordship, is this right?

Consul Hewett has ultimately made me to understand that I had no right whatever to report details of the New Calabar palaver of 1881 to Lord Granville, as you will find by my letter dated the 26th May, 1881, wherein I was one of the Arbitrators in settling the disputes of that river.

I, at that time, pointed to him the danger that would ensue provided the course proposed by us was not adopted. He eventually declined the course proposed by us, which afterwards ended in war between the natives of New Calabar; and, my seeing this, I sent full particulars to Lord Granville, since which it appears he has been waiting a chance to suppress me, which I really consider is unjust, and justice in all matters should always be considered by him and not party feelings.

I point this out to your Lordship so that you may see my position exactly with Consul Hewett here, and that my course be vindicated, so that I may be enabled to have a peaceful trade in my country.

I have, in confirmation of above, written three different times to Consul Hewett, but not a single reply up to my writing respecting my "comey," and I am compelled to lay matters before your Lordship for a thorough investigation and a final decision upon the several matters which I had last year placed in the hands of the Foreign Minister.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JA JA, King of Opobo River.

No. 41.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet.

(No. 41 A. Africa.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 22, 1887.

THE German Ambassador informed me to-day that the Imperial Governor of the Cameroons reported that in the question of the transfer of the property of the British Missionary Society he has not met with the support that he expected from Mr. Johnston, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Amba Bay.

Mr. Johnston, the German Governor stated, left Amba Bay shortly before the transfer was arranged, but before leaving he is reported to have set a rumour afloat that Victoria would, in any case, remain under English protection, and by so doing to have caused uneasiness and distrust among the natives against the Germans.

Count Hatzfeldt stated that he had been instructed by his Government to call the attention of Her Majesty's Government to Vice-Consul Johnston's attitude, against which the German Government has repeatedly complained as being hostile to Germany, the Vice-Consul being in the habit of venting his animosity in literary effusions directed against the German authorities generally.

His Excellency added that the Governor of the Cameroons had expressed his desire that the British officials intrusted with the cession of Victoria should receive telegraphic instructions with regard to it, and the Imperial Government would be glad if this could be done.

I have to request your Excellency to state that instructions have been telegraphed directing Consul Hewett to proceed to Victoria as soon as a ship of war is at his disposal to effect the formal transfer of the Settlement to Germany.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 42.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul Hewett.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, February 25, 1887, 6.45 P.M.

VESSEL of war placed at your disposal.

Proceed forthwith to Amba Bay, and effect formal transfer of Settlement to Germany, reserving private property of Her Majesty's Government.

Communicate with Governor of Cameroons, and ask for presence of German vessel.

Notify by Proclamation, in name of Queen, that, pursuant to agreement between the two Governments for delimitation of territories and interests on that coast, Settlement has ceased to form part of Her Majesty's dominions, and is placed under German Government.

Remove British flag, and hand over administration to German officials.

Telegraph receipt and date of departure.

No. 43.

Foreign Office to Consul Hewett.

(No. 8.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 25, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you copies of a note addressed by his Lordship to the German Ambassador at this Court, and of his Excellency's reply thereto,* with reference to the carrying out of the Agreement between the two Governments for the transfer to Germany of the Settlement of Victoria, Amba Bay, recorded in the two notes from Earl Granville of the 29th April, 1885, and the replies thereto of Count Münster of the 7th of the following month.

The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have been requested to send out instructions by telegraph that a ship may be placed at your disposal to convey you to Amba Bay.

On your arrival you should notify to the inhabitants by a public Proclamation in the name of the Queen that in pursuance of the engagement entered into between the British and German Governments for the delimitation of their respective territories and interests on that coast, the Settlement of Victoria will from that date cease to form part of Her Majesty's dominions, and is thenceforth placed under the protection of His Majesty the Emperor of Germany.

You will accordingly remove the British flag, and make all necessary arrangements for handing over the administration of the Settlement to the German officials who may be duly authorized in that behalf by instructions from their Government.

Any private property of Her Majesty's Government in the Settlement, whether movable or immovable, will not, of course, be included in the transfer.

The Settlement will thenceforth form part of the Consular district assigned to Her Majesty's Vice-Consulate in the Cameroons.

The substance of this despatch has been sent to you by telegraph.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 44.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 25, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit the inclosed correspondence,† from which the Lords Commissioners will see that the arrangements having been finally concluded for the transfer of Victoria, Amba Bay, to Germany, Consul Hewett has been instructed by telegraph to hold himself in readiness to proceed there, as soon as a man-of-war is at his disposal, to effect the formal transfer of the Settlement.

I am to request that the Lords Commissioners will send directions, by telegraph, that

[501] * Nos. 35 and 36.

† Nos. 35, 36, and 43.

a ship of war may be placed at Consul Hewett's disposal to convey him to Victoria for the purpose of carrying out his instructions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 45.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 25, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to request that you will inform Mr. Secretary Stanhope that, as the Baptist missionaries have now parted with their property in Victoria, Amba Bay, the difficulty respecting the transfer of the Settlement to Germany has disappeared, and it is necessary to carry out the provisional engagement made by Earl Granville with Count Münster on the 29th April, 1885.

I am to inclose copies of papers showing the steps taken to effect the transfer.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 46.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet.

(No. 49. Africa.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 26, 1887.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 41 A of the 22nd instant, I inclose papers showing the steps taken for effecting the cession to Germany of the Settlement of Victoria, Amba Bay.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 47.

Foreign Office to Consul Hewett.

(No. 9.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 3, 1887.

KING JA JA of Opobo has addressed to this Department a further letter, of which a copy is inclosed, respecting his grievances.†

The decision of Her Majesty's Government in this case was forwarded to you in Earl Rosebery's despatch No. 21 of the 16th June last, which also inclosed a letter to be delivered to Ja Ja.

I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to inform you that, as he does not seem to have received, or at any rate to have understood, the decision, a copy of the above-mentioned letter has now been forwarded directly to him. I am to inquire what steps have been taken with a view to the execution of the instructions which were contained in the despatch of the 16th June, 1886. A full report is required, as the subject of Ja Ja's position was carefully considered before the decision in his case was taken, and no information respecting it has since been received.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 48.

King Ja Ja to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 4.)

My Lord,

Opobo Town, Western Africa, January 24, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a letter written by me to Consul Hewett, although I have requested him to forward your Lordship a copy of same; in the meantime, beg your Lordship to write and ask Consul Hewett the particular wrongs I have

* Nos. 35, 36, 42, 43, and 44.

† No. 40.

done him that he should treat me as he had done, also stopping my "comey" without any reason whatever.

All the Kings of the Bights who are entitled to "comey" are receiving theirs, therefore beg to know from your Lordship the reason Consul Hewett stopped mine.

You will find also another inclosure which got up by a man who was present when Consul Hewett held the Court, whoever the writer was, said nothing but the truth of what he saw and heard.

There had been several official visits to this, such as Admiral Richards, Hewett, and Salmon, all of whom had interview with me and have never yet know me to rob any white men in this my river their rights.

Although the "shake-hand" question were then in existence, the present Consul Hewett had several visits here prior to this question and have never one day raised the question of "shake-hands."

The amount although having been refunded by me, as requested by Lord Rosebery, I do still ask your Lordship to look into same as to whether it was just on the part of Consul Hewett.

I do hope your Lordship may not think this being a burden, as Consul Hewett have afore express his determination in Bonny that, should any offence the least by me on his arrival here, he will immediately have me transported; may I ask your Lordship, is this justice?

I have, &c.
(Signed) JA JA, King of Opobo.

Inclosure 1 in No. 48.

Consul Hewett to King Ja Ja.

Sir,

Old Calabar, January 14, 1887.

IN reply to your letter about the "comey" not being paid to you by the agents in Opobo, I have to state that, when asked by them if they should continue to pay "comey," I gave it as my opinion, considering the wording of the letter received from Lord Rosebery, dated the 16th June, 1886, that it was not compulsory on them to do so. That letter said, "The Treaty of 1873 has been rendered nugatory by your own ends. It is superseded by the Treaty of the Protectorate, and can henceforth be appealed to by neither party." As it was under the Treaty of 1873 that the payment of "comey" was made, and as that Treaty has been rendered nugatory and is superseded by the Treaty of 1884, there is no obligation now binding the agents to pay you "comey."

Such is my reading of Lord Rosebery's letter to you.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD HYDE HEWETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 48.

King Ja Ja to Consul Hewett.

Sir,

Opobo River, West Coast of Africa, January 22, 1887.

I HAVE your letter of the 14th January, 1887, and I am surprised to hear that you, Her Majesty's Consul, consider that the agents in the river are not bound to pay me "comey" as usual.

This comey has been a very old custom, and was paid to me many years before Consul Livingstone came here and made Treaty with me, which was the first Treaty made with me.

The reason of stating comey in the first Treaty was that Consul Livingstone wished my comey to be the same as paid in Bonny, as at first the comey paid me was more than paid in Bonny.

At one of the meetings on Mr. Wright's beach, perhaps you remember me asking you if you wanted to stop my comey. Your answer was you would not stop it, but that if I did not want it I must write to Government and tell them to stop it. After the meeting you appear to have advised the agents not to pay. I would like to know why you did not advise them in my hearing not to pay it.

When Mr. Hall left the river I asked him for the comey by him, and he said he would not pay until you requested him, but that he would leave the amount due in the

hands of his successor Mr. Tasker, and if on your arrival here you requested him to pay, he most gladly would.

I always considered you to be a just man, and when the palaver begun, I asked Her Majesty's Government to send a just man to look into it.

I certainly did not think that because some years ago I wrote Government regarding the New Calabar palaver that you would treat me so badly as you have lately done.

At a meeting on Mr. Wright's beach you stated, before all the white men and my Chiefs, that some forty years ago I was only a nigger belonging to Ada Allison's house in Bonny; will you please tell me who made this statement to you?

When you asked me to attend to a meeting, I did not think that you, Her Majesty's Consul, intended to abuse me like a dog as you did.

All the abuse given me I do not think the Government was aware of. What wrong have I done you that you write Government so bad for me? Say what bad I do?

If white men will not trade or buy my oil, do I go into their stores and take their cargo? There is not one single thing which you say I have been right in, everything I do or say is wrong, and everything the white men say is right, according to you.

I have seen many Consuls here since Mr. Becroft (who was the first), and they have all given us a good hearing to what black men had to say as well as white men.

It seems strange to me that during all the years you have been Consul here, and doubtless know that "shake-hands dash" was paid me, you did not request the agents to cease payment of it.

It is now that trade is bad the agents turn round and say it is a payment which I compelled them to pay, and you seemingly make this the means of writing the Government so badly of me, and stating that the "shake-hands dash" was unduly exacted by me, and getting them to consent to its being paid back.

When I did pay I offered to pay them cargo back at same rate as was given me, but you would not agree to this. You said I must pay as the white men asked, which was equal to about double what was given me. Is this also at all fair?

I would like you to send a copy of this letter to the Foreign Office, and at the same time tell the Foreign Secretary that I do not intend to go and see you the next time you come here, as I am sure there will be nothing but abuse again.

It has always been customary when Consuls come in a man-of-war to hold the meeting on board, not in the premises of the white men where Consuls are very apt to be influenced in favour of the white men.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JA JA, King of Opobo.

Inclosure 3 in No. 48.

Extract from the "African Times."

AN AFRICAN PALAVER.—The Opobo River is one of the most interesting and unique portions of the West African Coast. The personality of its Ruler, Ja Ja, makes it this, and there is probably no man who has ever visited Opobo who has not been filled with astonishment and surprise at seeing such a man as Ja Ja, such a town as his capital is, and such a collection of intelligent and enlightened persons as are his Chiefs, in the midst of the dense barbarism, abject fetishism, and cruel and inhuman practices of West Africa. A gun-boat, with Mr. Consul Hewett on board, proceeded there lately, the object being the coercion of Ja Ja, principally because Ja Ja is becoming too civilized for the European traders in his river. The Opobo, which is supposed to be one of the many outlets of the great Niger, is a deep, wide river, but it has a nasty bar at its mouth, which at times breaks heavily, and is consequently exceedingly dangerous. On crossing it the leadsman was calling 12 feet, and, as the gun-boat was drawing within 2 or 3 inches of that, the sensation was not pleasant. Fortunately, however, nothing untoward happened.

Immediately upon its arrival the King was summoned to a "palaver" on board, which was attended by Ja Ja, all his "Chiefs," the officers of the two men-of-war in the river, and all the European traders. The King and his Chiefs came down in twenty-three canoes, each of them manned by forty men, and accompanied by the inevitable "tom toms," so that the noise of human voices and the native music combined baffle description. For some little time past rumours had been current along the coast that the King did not purpose to attend any "palaver" to which he might be summoned by the

Consul, and that he was prepared to use force in resisting any possible action by naval forces against his town or territory. Whether His Majesty did or did not make use of any empty braggadocio of this nature, he certainly showed considerable alacrity in repairing on board the gun-boat some time before the hour fixed for the commencement of the "palaver."

The King, who came on board arrayed in the full dress of an English naval captain, is the most remarkable man on the West Coast of Africa. Originally a slave of the King of Bonny, he emancipated himself, fought for and obtained the independence of Opobo, has since amassed considerable wealth, is a man of liberal ideas, and his territory is certainly more advanced and civilized than that of any of the other native potentates in this part of the world. Ja Ja is a man of extremely fine physique, speaks English fluently, has a keen sense of humour, a fair knowledge of logic, and is essentially a man of business. He is stated to be cruel, and his face, when not lighted up by a smile, certainly looks harsh and unfeeling; but it must be recollected that what is termed cruelty in England is a characteristic of every African Ruler, and the ruled take good care they do not have any one but a strong man over them, as weakness or leniency in these parts inevitably leads to anarchy and internal dissensions. Ja Ja is stated by the traders here to have sacrificed a human being daily for some weeks previous to our arrival, to propitiate his gods. This may or may not be true, but even if it were, it must be recollected that human sacrifices and the eating of human flesh are, unfortunately, not quite extinct in even this the most civilized of West African monarchies.

When every one was present and seated on the upper deck of the "Watchful," the Consul commenced the "palaver" by stating that he had summoned the Kings and Chiefs of Opobo and the European traders in the first place to investigate a complaint contained in a letter written by the King to the late Foreign Secretary, the Marquis of Salisbury, to the effect that the traders in the river had, in defiance of his Treaty with the Queen, proceeded to the interior of his country to trade direct with the oil markets. The traders admitted the truth of this complaint, but stated they had been compelled to do so in consequence of the badness of trade; that the Berlin Treaty guaranteed perfect freedom of trade in all rivers and territories in West Africa under British protection; and that as Ja Ja was trading direct with England and the English market, by shipping his produce in the mail-steamers to his agent in Liverpool, they considered they had a perfect right to trade direct with his markets. To this Ja Ja replied that when Her Majesty's Consul asked him to sign a Treaty placing his country under the protection of Great Britain, he expressly objected to the clause granting Europeans a right to proceed to the interior; that the clause was thereupon expunged by the Consul, and that he and his Chiefs signed the Treaty simply and solely because that clause was expunged; that he knew nothing of the Treaty of Berlin, and that he had no wish to trade direct with England if the traders in his river would give a reasonable price for the produce of his people instead of forming a ring to bring down prices. After hearing both sides, and, I am bound to add, a good many irrelevant and insulting remarks from the traders in respect to the King, Mr. Consul Hewett decided that by the Treaty of Berlin the traders had a perfect right to proceed to the markets in the interior, and that they were to be permitted to do so in the future without molestation. Ja Ja thereupon announced his intention to appeal to the Home Government against this decision, which he declared would ruin him, and that had he known it was ever likely to be brought about he would never have signed the Treaty placing his territory under the protection of Great Britain. It appears to me that the King is emphatically in the right, and that after negotiating a Treaty with him by which he refused to allow Europeans access to the interior of his country, the British Government by its Representative has no right to utilize the Treaty of Berlin as an excuse for upholding the action of certain filibustering traders. The Berlin Treaty simply guarantees freedom of trade to all nationalities in the rivers under our protection—not a right for any European to proceed to the interior in defiance of Treaties.

The traders next brought forward an accusation against the King of firing on their boats when proceeding through a creek to the Bonny River with their mails, but Ja Ja most solemnly asseverated that he had no cognizance of this, and that the outrage had been perpetrated by a tribe which was not under his jurisdiction. The traders, however, stated that they would be able to prove the attack had been incited and abetted by the King, and the matter was therefore postponed until the Consul's next visit to allow of further evidence being procured. The European residents then produced a charge against Ja Ja of imposing exactions upon them which were not according to Treaty, but which have, as far as it was possible to ascertain, been acquiesced in for years with equanimity, and to have been almost legalized by custom. These "exactions" consisted of a tribute to

the value of about 50% from each new agent arriving in the river. The Consul, however, found that any such tax was not according to Treaty, and, consequently, illegal, and he ordered that all such exactions from the imposition of the tax until the present time should be refunded to the representatives of the trading firms by whom they were paid. This means, at the very lowest computation, a sum of about 2,000%. I must say the King does not in all these transactions appear to have been treated with generosity, or his position as a factor in African civilization sufficiently recognized. So long as trade flourished and the profits were large he was petted and pampered, and his whims gratified by the European traders; but now that state of transient prosperity no longer exists, principally through a universal cause or causes—competition, and consequently over-production—and the King has begun to discover that he can get better value for his produce by shipping it direct to England, he is treated with contumely, is heavily fined, and his territory is invaded against Treaty rights.

One of the most interesting sights at the "palaver" was Ja Ja's son and heir—a boy about 14 years of age, who has just returned from England, where he has been at school for some years past. He was arrayed in the orthodox tunic and knickerbockers inseparably connected with our schoolboy days, speaks English perfectly, and has perfect manners. He, however, wears the peacock's feather in his hat which indicates that he has "killed his man." It has been said that King Ja Ja is the "only gentleman on the West Coast of Africa."—"Times of India."

No. 49.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received March 4.)

Sir,

Admiralty, March 3, 1887.

REFERRING to your letter of the 25th ultimo, respecting the arrangements which have been made for the transfer of Victoria, Amba Bay, to Germany, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State, that the following telegram has this day been sent to Sierra Leone, addressed to the Commander-in-chief on the Cape of Good Hope and West Coast of Africa Station, viz.:—

"Place vessel disposal Consul Hewett convey him Amba Bay, calling Accra; telegram for him there. Acknowledge."

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

No. 50.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet.

(No. 61. Africa.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 4, 1887.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 49, Africa, of the 26th ultimo, I inclose copy of a letter from the Admiralty,* stating that the Commander-in-chief on the West Coast of Africa Station has been instructed by telegraph to place a ship at Consul Hewett's disposal to convey him to Victoria, Amba Bay; and he has also been instructed to take the necessary steps for delivering to him the telegraphic instructions respecting the cession, which have reached Accra, but have not been forwarded to Old Calabar, as there has been no means of conveyance.

I should wish your Lordship to inform Count Bismarck of the measures adopted to secure an early transfer of the Settlement to Germany.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 51.

The Marquis of Salisbury to King Ja Ja.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 4, 1887.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th January last, relative to your alleged grievances against Her Majesty's Consul at Old Calabar. I have to inform

you that a final decision on all Tariff matters of which you complain was taken in June last by Her Majesty's Government, the terms of which were embodied in Lord Rosebery's letter to you of the 16th June, 1886.

As you do not refer to that letter in your present communication, it seems probable that you have not received it.

A copy of it is therefore sent herewith.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 52.

Sir E. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 31. Africa.)

My Lord,

Berlin, March 5, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, in obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 41 A, Africa, of the 22nd ultimo, I have addressed a note to Count Bismarck, copy of which I beg to inclose herewith, stating that Mr. Consul Hewett has been directed, by telegraph, to proceed to Victoria, Amba Bay, to effect the formal transfer of the Settlement to Germany.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 52.

Sir E. Malet to Count Bismarck.

M. le Secrétaire d'État,

Berlin, February 28, 1887.

THE Imperial German Ambassador in London having informed the Marquis of Salisbury that the Imperial Government would be glad if the British officials intrusted with the cession of Victoria, Amba Bay, should receive telegraphic instructions with regard to it, I am desired by his Lordship to state to your Excellency that instructions have been telegraphed directing Mr. Hewett, Her Majesty's Consul for the Bights of Benin and Biafra, to proceed to Victoria, as soon as a ship of war is at his disposal, to effect the formal transfer of the Settlement to Germany.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 53.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received March 7.)

Sir,

Admiralty, March 6, 1887.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the following copy of a telegram, dated the 5th March, which has been received from the Commander-in-chief on the West Coast of Africa:—

"Bathurst, March 5, 3.15 P.M.—"Icarus" will sail 6th; will arrange Hewett."

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

No. 54.

Question asked in the House of Commons, March 10, 1887.

Mr. Alfred Pease.—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Her Majesty's ship "Rifleman" has been sent to the River Rio del Rey to try and obtain the release of Mr. H. H. Johnston, Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul

* See Part II, No. 101.

for the territories under the Protectorate of Germany in the district of the Cameroons:

And whether Mr. Johnston's seizure took place within the territory of the German Protectorate.

Answer.

Consul Hewett reported on the 3rd February that he had heard that Mr. Johnston had been captured by a tribe on the Rio del Rey. Though considering the rumour doubtful, he at once proceeded to the spot in Her Majesty's ship "Rifleman," taking with him a native Chief having influence in the district. No information has since been received.

It is not known whether the tribe said to have captured him is within the German Protectorate.

No. 55.

Consul Hewett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11, 11.26 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

Bonny, March 11, 1887, 9 A.M.

RECEIVED 7th your telegram of the 25th February. Will proceed to Victoria directly I can get gun-boat. Been ill eleven days. Doctor urges leaving my post. Johnston will require somebody.

No. 56.

Foreign Office to Mr. Goldie-Taubman.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 12, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to inclose, for your confidential information, copies of correspondence respecting the difficulties with King Ja Ja of Opobo.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

Inclosures in above Letter.

King Ja Ja, March 26, 1886. See Part II, No. 65.
 " " April 2, 1886. See Part II, No. 74.
 Consul Hewett, No. 5, April 19, 1886. See Part II, No. 82.
 To King Ja Ja, June 16, 1886. See Part II, No. 101.
 " " June 16, 1886. See Part II, Inclosure in No. 100.
 To Consul Hewett, No. 21, June 16, 1886. See Part II, No. 100.
 " " No. 22, June 17, 1886. See Part III, No. 1.
 " " King Ja Ja, June 18, 1886. See Part III, No. 12.
 " " January 13, 1887. See Part III, No. 40.
 " " January 24, 1887. See Part III, No. 48.
 To King Ja Ja, March 4, 1887. See Part III, No. 51.
 To Consul Hewett, No. 9, March 3, 1887. See Part III, No. 47.
 To King Ja Ja, March 14, 1887. See Part III, No. 59.

No. 57.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet.

(No. 70 A. Africa.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 14, 1887.

BARON PLESSSEN stated to-day that he was instructed to express the thanks of the German Government for the promptitude shown by Her Majesty's Government in sending telegraphic instructions respecting the transfer of the Settlement of Victoria, Ambas Bay.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 58.

Foreign Office to Consul Hewett.

(No. 10.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 14, 1887.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 9 of the 3rd instant, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you copy of a further letter received from King Ja Ja, and of the answer that has been returned to him.*

In the absence of recent reports from you, his Lordship is not aware of the ground upon which the complaints rest.

I am, however, to observe that Ja Ja is correct in saying that the Treaty of 1873 did not establish his right to "comey," but referred to that right as based on pre-existing custom.

It would be neither just nor politic to place this Chief in an exceptional position as regards other Chiefs similarly situated, though it has justly been decided that he should not be permitted to claim exceptional privileges not enjoyed by other Chiefs.

His Lordship will be glad to receive from you a full report of what has passed.

In the meantime, it is his wish that if you are satisfied that the exaction of "hand-shakes" has been discontinued, you should return the 30 puncheons of oil which are understood to have been paid as a fine.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 59.

The Marquis of Salisbury to King Ja Ja.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 14, 1887.

I HAVE received your letter of the 24th January.

I shall doubtless receive Consul Hewett's reports of what has passed between him and you.

It is my determination that, while native Chiefs under the Protectorate of Her Majesty the Queen shall not be permitted to harass nor impede freedom of trade, they shall themselves be treated justly.

It has already been explained to you that the exaction of "hand-shakes" was contrary to the Treaty of 1873, and that your disregard of that Treaty has led to its termination being notified to you.

I am instructing Consul Hewett, however, that if he is satisfied that you have now discontinued this exaction he is to return to you the fine of 30 puncheons of oil.

As regards the "comey," further explanation is required. You are, according to your own admission, trading direct with this country in competition with British traders. You appeal to old custom to justify you in levying "comey," while you thus introduce a custom hitherto unknown to the coast.

If you are allowed to trade direct, and at the same time to levy "comey" on your competitors, you will be granted a practical monopoly of trade. On the other hand, you cannot claim to close against competition the markets of the interior while opening to yourself those of the exterior.

Your letter gives no proof that you have suffered injustice, but I am ready to receive from you further explanations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 60.

Consul Hewett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 9. Africa.)

My Lord,

Old Calabar, February 25, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt by the last mail-steamer on the 20th instant of a telegram of no date which arrived at Bonny on the 15th.†

* Nos. 48 and 59.

† See No. 38.

With reference to the subject of that telegram, I beg to inform your Lordship that Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston left this on the 26th ultimo to begin his survey of the River del Rey; that he returned here on the 20th instant, and left again on the 22nd to resume that work. I made him acquainted with the purport of the telegram, and requested him to lose no time in bringing his task to a conclusion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD HYDE HEWETT.

No. 61.

Consul Hewett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 30, 6 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

Bonny, March 30, 1887, 4.5 P.M.

VICTORIA transferred 28th March.

No. 62.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet.

(No. 88. Africa.)

Foreign Office, March 30, 1887.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 235, Africa, of the 30th October last, I transmit to your Excellency herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Hewett, Her Majesty's Consul at Old Calabar,* reporting that the survey of the Rio del Rey has been commenced by Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston.

I have to request your Excellency to communicate this information to the Imperial Government.

I have to add that it has been ascertained that there was no truth in the report of his capture by natives. He is reported to have met with no difficulties during his journey.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 63.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet.

(No. 89. Africa.)

Foreign Office, March 30, 1887.

Sir,

I HAVE to request your Excellency to inform Count Bismarck that a telegram has been received from Consul Hewett stating that Victoria, Amba Bay, was transferred to Germany on the 28th instant.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 64.

Sir E. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 4.)

(No. 44. Africa.)

Berlin, April 2, 1887.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 89, Africa, of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I have informed Count Bismarck that Consul Hewett telegraphs that Victoria, Amba Bay, was transferred to Germany on the 28th ultimo.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

* No. 60.

No. 65.

Consul Hewett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 11.)

(No. 10. Africa.)

My Lord,

Old Calabar, March 9, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt on the 7th instant of your Lordship's telegram of the 25th ultimo, directing me to proceed to Amba Bay, and, reserving the private property of Her Majesty's Government, to transfer to Germany the Settlement of Victoria. Your Lordship also gives me instructions as to the mode in which I am to proceed in this matter; these will be strictly carried out, and I will leave this as soon as I can, but as yet no gun-boat has been sent to me.

I forward by the steamer leaving to-day, for transmission from Bonny, a telegram of which the following is a copy, viz.:—

"Your telegram 25th February.

"Will proceed to Victoria directly I can get gun-boat. Been ill eleven days. Doctor urges leaving my post. Johnston will require some one."

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD HYDE HEWETT.

No. 66.

Consul Hewett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 11.)

(No. 12. Africa.)

My Lord,

Old Calabar, March 12, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report that Herr von Puttkamer, the Chancellor of Cameroon, arrived here in a German gun-boat on the 10th, and yesterday morning he and the Captain paid me a visit.

The object of his coming was to consult me about the title, which the Governor of Cameroon and he considered doubtful, of the Baptist Mission Society to the land to be handed over by it to the German Mission. But with this I need not now trouble your Lordship, as my explanation of the two documents—copies of the Baptists' title-deeds as they may be called—seemed to satisfy the Chancellor, and the matter was left over for discussion, if necessary, with the Governor when I visit Cameroon.

I took occasion to mention to Herr von Puttkamer that I had received your Lordship's instructions, by telegraph, to deliver over to Germany the Settlement of Victoria, that I was duly expecting a gun-boat in which I purposed proceeding to Cameroon to see the Governor on the subject, but, if I was disappointed about the gun-boat, that I was going to write to his Excellency by the next mail. He very kindly volunteered to be the bearer of any letter from me to the Governor or to Rear-Admiral Hunt-Grubbe, to whom, I told him, I wished to apply for a gun-boat to be sent without delay, and who I knew was due at Fernando Po about this time.

I availed myself of his offer, and sent a letter to the Governor, a copy of which I have the honour to inclose, and one to the Commander-in-chief.

Herr von Puttkamer, whose visit I was unable to return, for which I apologized and expressed my regret, left this morning for Fernando Po in the hope of meeting Sir Walter Hunt-Grubbe, from whom he would be able to learn when a gun-boat would be sent to me, and thereby judge within a day the time I should arrive at Cameroon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD HYDE HEWETT.

Inclosure in No. 66.

Consul Hewett to Baron von Soden.

Sir,

Old Calabar, March 11, 1887.

BY the kind courtesy of Herr von Puttkamer I am enabled to communicate with your Excellency earlier than by the regular mail-steamer, and I take advantage of the opportunity to do myself the honour of informing your Excellency that I have telegraphic instructions from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to

hand over to Germany (reserving the private property of Her Majesty's Government) the Settlement of Victoria.

I am desired to convey the above to your Excellency's knowledge, and to ask that a German gun-boat be present when I make the transfer.

The telegram informs me that a vessel of war will be placed at my disposal, but none has yet appeared here. The Rear-Admiral the Commander-in-chief is due at Fernando Po to-morrow or the next day, so I write to him for a gun-boat to be sent to me as soon as possible, and this I expect he will do in the course of a few days. When the gun-boat arrives I will lose no time in proceeding to Cameroon to pay my respects to your Excellency, and to learn your wishes with regard to the date for the transfer of the Settlement to take place, as well as to talk over with your Excellency the matters which Herr von Puttkamer placed before me at our interview to-day.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD HYDE HEWETT.

No. 67.

Sir E. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 48. Africa.)

My Lord,

Berlin, April 16, 1887.

IN the Imperial Budget for the current year a note, appended to an item of extraordinary colonial expenditure, expresses a hope that in time the revenue raised by taxation in the German Protectorates of Cameroon and Togo will suffice to defray the ordinary costs of their administration, and states that it is proposed, if an understanding can be come to with the French Government, to shortly introduce a system of import duties into the Protectorate of Togo.

The same note adds that the Government also hopes in time to be able to raise a certain amount of revenue by taxes in the South-west African Protectorate.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 68.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet.

(No. 102. Africa.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 18, 1887.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 44 of the 2nd instant, I transmit herewith, for your information, copy of a despatch, with its inclosure, which has been received from Mr. Hewett, Her Majesty's Consul at Old Calabar,* reporting steps taken by him preparatory to making over the Settlement of Victoria to the Representatives of the German Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 69.

Consul Hewett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 13. Africa.)

My Lord,

Old Calabar, March 31, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report that on the 19th ultimo Her Majesty's gun-vessel "Rifleman" arrived here, bringing me a letter from Rear-Admiral Sir Walter Hunt Grubbe, inviting me to accompany him on his visits to the rivers in my district. As I thought that a personal application to the Commander-in-chief would be the quickest way of getting a man-of-war to convey me to Cameroons, to see the Governor there about the transfer of Victoria to Germany, I embarked on board the "Rifleman" early in the morning of the 20th. On the following morning we came across the flag-ship at anchor off Akassa. I paid a visit to the Admiral, and told him of the instructions I had received by

* No. 66.

telegraph from your Lordship, and he detained the "Rifleman" to convey me to Cameroons and Victoria. I left the same night in that gun-vessel, and arrived the following afternoon at Fernando Po, where we were detained coaling till the next afternoon, when we proceeded to Victoria, arriving there the same evening (the 22nd). On the 23rd we went into Cameroons River, and on the "Rifleman's" anchoring there, before I had time to send to the Governor the letter I had written him, announcing my arrival and asking for an interview, Herr von Puttkamer, Chancellor of the Cameroons, came on board, having been sent by his Excellency to me.

I arranged with the Chancellor that I would pay my respects to the Governor, the Baron von Soden, the next morning, and accepted his Excellency's invitation to luncheon brought me by Herr von Puttkamer. At the appointed time the next forenoon, accompanied by Lieutenant and Commander Prater, of the "Rifleman," I paid my visit to the Governor, who received me in a very courteous and friendly manner. With regard to the transfer to Germany of the Settlement of Victoria, he said it would not be convenient for him to be present, but that he would depute the Chancellor to represent him.

Our conversation was interrupted by the arrival of Sir Walter Hunt Grubbe, who came to pay his visit to the Governor, and who remained to luncheon. After which, when the Admiral left, the Governor asked me to excuse him, as he wished to return Sir Walter's visit, but he begged me not to leave, as he would come back very shortly, and he wished to speak to me on several matters. In the meantime, the Chancellor was to entertain me. Herr von Puttkamer and I fixed on Monday, the 28th, as the day that would suit us both for the transfer of Victoria, whither he would proceed on the Sunday.

I will not here refer to the subjects on which the Governor and I conversed when he returned; they will form subjects of other despatches later.

I informed his Excellency of my intention to start for Victoria very early the next morning, as there were some outstanding matters I wished to clear up. He thereupon expressed his regret at my going so soon, as it would deprive him of the opportunity of calling on me as he wished to do. I replied that it was the shortness of the time I had at my disposal which obliged me to leave Cameroons so soon, and thereby forego the honour he intended doing me.

Having taken my leave of the Governor, I went on board the German gun-boat "Cyclop" to return the visit which the Captain had paid me here when he brought Herr von Puttkamer, as reported in my despatch No. 12, Africa, of the 12th March.

The next day, on my arrival at Amboises Bay, the Rev. Mr. Fuller—the representative of the Baptist Missionary Society—came on board, and brought me some papers I had asked him on my previous visit to show me on my return. He mentioned that the people of some of the villages situated on the land, which the Society had bought years ago, now declared that their territory did not belong to the Baptist Missionary Society, and if King William of Bimbia had sold it that he had no right to do so, as their fathers never belonged to the pretended vendor. This, Mr. Fuller observed, placed him in a very unpleasant position, as the German or Basle Missionary Society's agent would not take over in completion of the Agreement between the two Missionary Societies the land of which the title was disputed. One of the documents he showed me was a letter from the Secretary of the Baptist Missionary Society, which stated that Her Majesty's Government had undertaken not to part with the sovereign rights over Victoria until the two Baptist Societies had come to a settlement as to the sale of the land.

In reply, I told Mr. Fuller that my instructions were peremptory, and that I must proceed on the following Monday to carry them into effect; but in the meantime he had better send up to the Headmen of the dissentient villages as soon as possible, and tell them to come to speak to me, so that I might endeavour to settle the difficulty before delivering over to the Germans. This was done, but those from the principal villages did not come down by the time the transfer of the Settlement had taken place; so, with the view to protect the interests of the Baptist Missionary Society, Mr. Fuller, on the 28th, immediately after the British flag had been hauled down, handed me a letter of protest, a copy of which is inclosed.

On the Sunday (27th March) Herr von Puttkamer arrived in the Governor's steam-yacht, and I at once repaired on board to return his visit which he made to me when he came to Old Calabar, and which I could not do at Cameroons.

We agreed to leave the details of the ceremony to be observed on the morrow to the Captains of the "Cyclop" (which came in during the afternoon) and of the "Rifleman."

With regard to the reservation of the private property belonging to Her Majesty's

Government, which was one of the subjects of conversation between the Governor and myself, I came to the conclusion that as I was not authorized by Her Majesty's Government to enter into any engagement to lease the ground round and on which the Vice-Consulate house was erected, we should reduce to writing the Heads of an Agreement, and submit them to our respective Governments for adoption as a basis for a lease.

In the afternoon we went together to the Island of Mondole, and having inspected the ground, we agreed on the boundary-line, as described at the conclusion of the Heads of Agreement—a copy of which I have the honour to inclose herein.

On the morning of the 28th an armed party of twenty blue-jackets and a bugler under an officer was landed from each of the vessels of war, and afterwards drawn up in line opposite each other facing the flagstaff on which the Union Jack was flying. Herr von Puttkamer and I, accompanied by the Captains of the two gun-boats, Captain Vauseloff, in charge of the Governor's yacht, and other officers, then repaired to the flagstaff, when I read out the Proclamation of which I have the honour to inclose a copy. The order was then given to haul down the British flag, the two parties of seamen presented arms, and a salute of twenty-one guns was fired from each of the gun-boats.

On the conclusion of this salute, Herr von Puttkamer read a Proclamation in German, by which the Settlement of Victoria was declared to form part of the Cameroons Protectorate, and as such was under the sovereignty of the Emperor of Germany. The German flag was then hoisted, and was received with similar honours to those paid to ours on its being hauled down.

As the Chancellor and I exchanged transcripts of our respective Proclamations, I am enabled to furnish your Lordship with a copy of the document he gave me. Your Lordship will notice, perhaps, that in this Proclamation the Chancellor declares that Victoria forms a part of the Protectorate of Cameroons.

Herr von Puttkamer and I then had a meeting with the Chiefs of three villages disclaiming to have belonged to King William of Bimbia, who was said to have sold them to the Baptist Missionary Society. The Chancellor took down the statements of the various parties, and we both signed the document. I did not ask for a copy, as I considered that the matter was one to be arranged by the parties concerned, and if that was found not to be feasible, it would be brought before the judicial authorities of Victoria or the Cameroons.

Herr von Puttkamer very considerably provided our party of blue-jackets with refreshments before they re-embarked, and at his invitation a party of sixteen or seventeen, including the German and English naval officers, Herr Zintgraff, and myself, partook of luncheon at the German factory established at Victoria.

In the evening Herr von Puttkamer, Captain von Halfen, and Captain Vauseloff dined with us on board the "Rifleman."

By the "Cyclops," which left early the next morning for Bonny, I sent the following telegram *en clair*, "Prodrome, London. Victoria transferred March 28th," for transmission to your Lordship. The "Rifleman" also left that morning, and landed me here in the evening.

I am happy to be able to bear witness not only to the courtesy which was shown me by the Baron von Soden, Herr von Puttkamer, and the German naval officers, but also to the friendly manner in which I was received by all of them. My dealings were more particularly with the Chancellor, who displayed throughout our intercourse a most amicable spirit, which made my duties light and agreeable.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD HYDE HEWETT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 69.

The Rev. J. J. Fuller to Consul Hewett.

Sir,

Brookmount House, Victoria, West Africa, March 28, 1887.

BY the instructions I received from the Baptist Missionary Society in London, I am instructed that, after I have completed the contract of transfer as entered into between the Baptist Missionary Society in London and the Basle Missionary Society, and have handed over to the Rev. G. Munz, the representative of the Basle Missionary Society, the Mission and property of the Victoria Settlement, then the Rev. G. Munz would apply to the German Government to take over the Protectorate of the Victoria Settlement.

As the British Government have now handed over the Protectorate to the German Government before the said property is virtually handed by me over to the Rev. G. Munz, I beg most respectfully, on behalf of the Baptist Missionary Society in London, to protest against the proceedings of this day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. J. FULLER, *Missionary.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 69.

Heads of Agreement to be recommended for adoption by the Governments of His Majesty the Emperor of Germany and Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

A LEASE to be granted by the German Government to the British Government of that portion hereinafter described of the Island of "Mondole" as marked out by Her Majesty's Consul, Mr. Hewett, and the Chancellor of Cameroons, Herr von Puttkamer, for such time as the British Government may require it solely for Government purposes.

The rent to be paid by the British Government to be of the nominal amount of 1s. per annum.

Ground and house not to be liable to any rates or taxes.

A piece of ground on the beach about 20 feet broad, and now used by the Vice-Consul for keeping his boat, to be included in the ground above mentioned.

The ground above referred to shall extend from a line running west-south-west and east-north-east 70 yards distant from and parallel with the south-south-east end of the Vice-Consul's house, the west-south-west arm to terminate at the sea, the east-north-east arm to be drawn to a point on the path leading from the beach to the house where the Mission House at "Victoria" bears north-east, thence by the shortest line to the sea.

These bearings are magnetic.

March 28, 1887.

v. P.
E. H. H.

Inclosure 3 in No. 69.

Proclamation.

By Edward Hyde Hewett, Esq., Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Her Majesty's Consul for the Bights of Benin and Biafra, &c., &c.

(Signed) EDWARD HYDE HEWETT, *Her Majesty's Consul.*
(L.S.)

WHEREAS an Agreement has been entered into by the Government of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, &c., &c., and the Government of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Germany, &c., &c., for the delimitation of territories and interests on the West Coast of Africa:

Now, I, Edward Hyde Hewett, Her Majesty's Consul for the Bights of Benin and Biafra, in compliance with instructions which I have received from Her Majesty's Government, in the name of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria do hereby proclaim and make known that, pursuant to the terms of the Agreement above mentioned, reserving the private property herein belonging to Her Majesty's Government, this Settlement of Victoria no longer forms part of Her Majesty's dominions, but is now transferred to and is placed under the Imperial German Government.

Given under my hand and official seal on board of Her Majesty's gun-vessel "Rifleman," anchored in Amboises Bay, this 28th day of March, in the year of our Lord, 1887, and of Her Majesty's reign the fiftieth.

God save the Queen.

Inclosure 4 in No. 69.

Proclamation.

(Translation.)

WITH reference to the Proclamation issued to-day by the Royal British Consul, Mr. E. H. Hewett, in the name of his Government, I hereby declare the Settlement of Victoria, heretofore under British rule, to be an integral part of the German Protectorate of Cameroon, and, as such, under the sovereignty of His Majesty the Emperor of Germany.

Given at Victoria, on the 28th March, 1887, by command of the Imperial Governor of Cameroon.

(L.S.)

(Signed)

VON PUTTKAMER, *Chancellor.**Minutes by Sir P. Anderson and Sir J. Pouncefote.*

Shall we ask Treasury assent to the Mondole lease?

H. P. A.

May 13, 1887.

It is no lease at all, having no fixed term. We can suggest that it should be amended in that respect and turned into a perpetual lease.

J. P.

May 13, 1887.

I am afraid the German Government might make a difficulty about a perpetual lease. The understanding was that we should have possession so long as we require it for Government purposes. There are many contingencies which may make our tenure short, and the Germans may covet it.

If there is a difficulty, we may safely leave it alone and rest on our understanding.

H. P. A.

May 14, 1887.

Then it must be done by exchange of notes. You cannot have such a lease as is proposed.

J. P.

The inclosed two papers will show what passed. Are they not practically sufficient for our purpose?

We did not tell Hewett to get a lease; it was his own idea.

H. P. A.

May 18, 1887.

The two papers are, I presume, our note to Count Hatzfeldt and our despatch to Mr. Johnston (No. 2 of the 7th February).

But these show that we reserved our absolute property in the Consular building and land at Mondole.

Your Minute of the 14th May states that we only reserved "possession so long as we required it for Government purposes."

Where is this modified reservation recorded?

J. P.

May 21, 1887.

We have no ownership at all. The land belonged to the Baptists, who would not give us any lease or title, so we "squatted." I think my Minute of the 14th May correctly describes the position. It does not say that we reserved possession.

On the 27th January we told Count Hatzfeldt that we had built a Consular house on the island, and asked that, when the Baptists withdrew, this house and the land surrounding it might be recognized as British Government property.

On the 7th February Baron Plessen gave the verbal answer that the Governor of the Cameroons had been instructed not to interfere with the property.

We have learnt that the German Government and Hewett arranged that we should hold house and land so long as it is required for Government purposes, paying so much a-year.

H. P. A.

May 23, 1887.

On looking through the papers again, I see your point, which I had not quite understood.

We did ask that the Germans would give it us absolutely. Plessen's answer was only verbal. The written papers let us occupy it conditionally.

But all we can ask is to be allowed to occupy the land so long as it is required for Government purposes. We neither own it nor lease it. We have no title of any sort, and are at the mercy of the Germans.

H. P. A.

No. 70.

Vice-Consul Johnston to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 4. Africa.)

My Lord,

Old Calabar, April 4, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have returned to Old Calabar from the Rio del Rey, having completed my survey of that district.

I have made a large Chart of the region over which I have travelled, which will exhibit every feature of interest. I have also collected considerable information as to the condition and resources of this hitherto unknown country, and I have made scientific collections likely to prove of interest. Unfortunately, my travels have not been unattended by privations and hardships, and I am at present suffering from considerable fatigue. I shall endeavour, however, to conclude my Report, and dispatch that and the Maps and specimens with all possible dispatch.

Throughout my journey I have been received with the utmost kindness by the few natives that form the sparse population of the country. The only difficulties and dangers that I met with were those usually attending the navigation of unknown rivers and the crossing of trackless forests and treacherous swamps.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

No. 71.

Baptist Missionary Society to Foreign Office.—(Received May 4.)

*Baptist Mission House, 19, Castle Street, Holborn,
London, May 2, 1887.*

Sir,

I BEG leave very respectfully to communicate with you at once with reference to my last letter dated the 23rd September, 1886.

In this letter I informed Her Majesty's Government, through your good self, that the Baptist Missionary Society had entered into a provisional Agreement with the Basle Missionary Society for the sale of the Victoria Settlement on the West Coast of Africa, with certain buildings at the Cameroons, for 4,000*l.*, "half of this sum to be paid in London when the Agreement is signed, the remaining half to be paid so soon as the Basle Missionary Society shall hear from their agents on the West Coast that possession has been given." And I went on further to say, "Until, of course, the entire sum of 4,000*l.* has been paid, the present negotiations cannot be regarded as finally concluded; and, until such time as the whole purchase-money has been paid, the Baptist Missionary Society will be thankful if Her Majesty's Government will maintain the *status quo*."

This morning I have received a letter from the Rev. J. J. Fuller, the missionary of the Baptist Missionary Society at Cameroons, dated Brookmount House, Victoria, the 29th March, 1887, and in this letter he reports that "at 10 o'clock this morning (29th March, 1887) the English flag was lowered at Victoria and the German flag was

run up in its place, with the Royal salute for each. A Proclamation was also read to the effect that Her Britannic Majesty's Government had now handed over to the Imperial Government of Germany the Protectorate of Victoria, and that from this time forward it would constitute a part of the German Empire."

Mr. Fuller goes on further to say, "As soon as the flag was hauled down, I handed in to Her Britannic Majesty's Consul my protest." Mr. Fuller sends with his letter a duplicate of his protest, a copy of which I herewith attach.

I am directed by the Committee of the Baptist Missionary Society to very respectfully call the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the circumstances reported by Mr. Fuller, and to state that the negotiation with the Basle Missionary Society with regard to the territory of Victoria is in no way complete, as only a moiety of the purchase-money has been paid, and the Baptist Missionary Society are now given to understand that the Basle Missionary Society are not prepared to complete the Agreement in consequence of some dispute as to the territory.

Under these circumstances, the Committee hope that Her Majesty's Government have not formally handed over the territory of Victoria to the German Government, as, on the 23rd September last, in my letter to your good self, the Committee implore Her Majesty's Government, until such time as the whole of the purchase-money has been paid, and the Agreement carried out to the full, to maintain the *status quo*, and not to part with the sovereignty of the territory.

From the intelligence received this morning from the West Coast it appears that, under the sanction of the Consul, the sovereignty of the territory has been given up to the Imperial Government of Germany, while the Baptist Missionary Society have not yet received the purchase-money, and the negotiation is certainly not yet complete.

The Committee earnestly trust that there may have been some condition laid down by the Consul to the effect that the transfer of the sovereignty of the territory must depend upon the Basle Missionary Society carrying out the Agreement entered into, as it was entirely dependent upon this that the Baptist Missionary Society entered into the provisional Agreement.

The Committee will be very grateful to Her Majesty's Government for any information on this subject.

Awaiting your kind reply, I have, &c.

(Signed)

ALFRED HENRY BAYNES,
General Secretary, Baptist Missionary Society.

Inclosure in No. 71.

The Rev. J. J. Fuller to Consul Hewett.

→ Sir,

Brookmount House, Victoria, West Africa, March 28, 1887.

BY the instructions I received from the Baptist Society in London I am instructed that after I have completed the contract of transfer as entered into between the Baptist Missionary Society in London and the Basle Missionary Society, and have handed over to the Rev. G. Munz (the representative of the Basle Missionary Society) the Mission and property of the Victoria Settlement, then the Rev. G. Munz would apply to the German Government to take over the Protectorate of the Victoria Settlement.

As the British Government have now handed over the Protectorate to the German Government before the said property is virtually handed by me over to the Rev. G. Munz, I beg most respectfully, on behalf of the Baptist Missionary Society in London, to protest against the proceedings of this day.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

J. J. FULLER.

Minutes by Mr. Wylde, Mr. Davidson, and Sir J. Pouncefote.

Davidson,

Have you seen this since it came back from Pouncefote and Lord Salisbury?

There is also a further letter from the Society, asking why their letters were not answered.

E. W. W.

No; I had not seen the papers since their return.

We can now answer finally in the sense of my Minute, which is approved, and preface our answer by an expression of regret that their letter of the 23rd September should have remained unacknowledged.

W. E. D.

I would reply as proposed by Mr. Davidson. We should bear in mind that the British Society are bound to give a good title to the property which they have sold to the Basle Society before they receive the purchase-money. A portion of the property sold is now claimed by some native Chiefs. If their claim be good, then to that extent the British Society have sold what did not belong to them. The case is one for decision by a competent Tribunal or by arbitration. But we obviously could not defer the cession until the question of the claim of the native Chiefs should be decided.

J.

June 2, 1887.

S.

No. 72.

Baptist Missionary Society to Foreign Office.—(Received June 3.)

*Baptist Mission House, 19, Castle Street, Holborn,
London, June 2, 1887.*

Sir,

I VENTURE to ask you if you will be kind enough to let me know whether you received a letter of mine addressed to yourself, and dated London, 23rd September, 1886, with reference to the sale of the Victoria Settlement, on the West Coast of Africa, to the Basle Missionary Society.

I desire also further to ask very respectfully if you also received a letter from me on the same subject, dated London, 2nd May, 1887. As I have not received any acknowledgment of either of these communications, I am very anxious to know if they have reached you, and I shall esteem it a great kindness if you will be good enough to let me know if these communications have been received.

I trust you will be so good as to favour me with a line in reply to this question. Thanking you by anticipation for your great kindness in this matter, and with much esteem, I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED HENRY BAYNES,
General Secretary.

No. 73.

Memorandum by Mr. Davidson.

Baptist Missionary Society, Victoria, Amba Bay.

BY the arrangement which was concluded in 1885 between Great Britain and Germany for separating and defining their mutual spheres of action in certain parts of Africa, it was agreed (amongst other things) that both Powers should withdraw any Protectorates which might have already been established within the limits to be assigned by either Power to the other.

A reservation was, however, specially made with regard to Victoria, Amba Bay, which was to continue to be a "British possession" unless and until the German Government should come to an understanding with the English Missionary Society who had settled there in regard to the sale of the property belonging to their Mission, in which event it was stated by Her Majesty's Government that any difficulty as to the cession of the Settlement of Victoria, Amba Bay, would disappear, and that they would agree to that Settlement also being included in the territories to be placed, in accordance with the arrangement of 1885, under the Protectorate of the German Imperial Government.

During the year 1886 negotiations were carried on, with the assent of the German Government, for the transfer of the property of the Baptist Missionary Society to the Basle Mission; and on the 23rd September of that year a letter was written to us by the

General Secretary of the Baptist Missionary Society, informing us that he had entered into an Agreement* at Berlin on the 9th September with two representatives of the Basle Mission with respect to the transfer of the property of his Society (including the Island of Mondole) to the Mission for a sum of 4,000*l.*, half to be paid in London when the *definite Agreement*† was signed, and the remaining half to be paid so soon as the Basle Mission should hear from their agents that possession had been given.

The writer went on to say:—

“Until, of course, the entire sum of 4,000*l.* has been paid, the present negotiations cannot be regarded as finally concluded; and until such time as the whole purchase-money has been paid, we shall be thankful if Her Majesty’s Government will maintain the *status quo*.”

This letter was, unfortunately, minuted and treated as though it had reference to the question of Mondole alone, and no notice whatever was taken of its concluding paragraph in the reply which was sent to the General Secretary on the 1st October, 1886.

Moreover, the letter was, through some mishap, not printed at the time, and consequently does not appear in the Confidential Print, Part III, as it should do.‡

Its existence was consequently entirely overlooked in the subsequent correspondence which passed upon the subject, and it is only now, when it has again emerged from obscurity in connection with the question of Mondole, that its important bearing on the larger question has been discovered.

On the 26th October (more than a month after this letter was received) a formal Agreement, confirming the provisional one already arrived at in Berlin on the 9th September, was executed in London.

A copy of the signed Agreement was communicated to Lord Iddesleigh by Count Hatzfeldt on the 16th November, who pointed out that, “as the condition laid down in Lord Granville’s note of the 29th April last year was thus fulfilled,” the German Government were now in a position to request that the Agreement for the cession of Amba Bay conditional thereon might now be carried out.

We made no communication whatever to the Baptist Missionary Society, but, after consulting the Law Officers of the Crown, we intimated, on the 27th January, 1887, to the German Government that Her Majesty’s Government were prepared to carry out Lord Granville’s engagement.

Accordingly, without any further ado, the British flag was hauled down, and the German flag hoisted in its place.

If the whole of the purchase-money had been paid to the Baptist Mission before our flag was hauled down, we should of course have heard no more about the matter; but, unfortunately, some difficulties have arisen with regard to the title which the Baptist Mission are able to give, and the Basle Mission have refused—at any rate until these difficulties are removed—to complete the purchase.

In these circumstances, the Baptist Mission protest against what they consider the precipitate action of Her Majesty’s Government, and refer to the terms of their letter of the 23rd September, 1886, already quoted.

It is not necessary to go into the question of how far their request was reasonable or not, though we should probably not have been inclined to accede to it. But I must say I think they were entitled to suppose, when their letter had been answered and no exception had been taken to that request, that we thought it a reasonable one, and would act in accordance with it.

And it seems to me that they are also entitled to complain in that, without the slightest reference to them for confirmation of the report we received from the German Government (whose interests were, of course, bound up with the purchasers’, and who were more or less at arm’s length with the vendors), we proceeded to hand over Amba Bay forthwith to German sovereignty.

As I have been asked to examine the question, I have thought it well to go to this extent into its history; but the only practical matter now is to settle what answer we had better make to the Baptist Mission.

It is, of course, clear that, having once hoisted their flag, the Germans will not haul it down *en attendant* the payment of the remaining 2,000*l.* by the Basle Mission. We must therefore treat the Agreement as having been carried out when it was actually signed, in so far as we are concerned with it.

* This was clearly a “provisional” Agreement.—W. E. D.

† This Agreement was not executed until the 26th October, 1886, or more than a month after this letter was written.—W. E. D.

‡ It now appears, however, that the letter was not acknowledged, and that the “draft” which appears on the docket as having been written on the 1st October, 1886, was to Vice-Consul Johnston. (See Baptist Missionary Society’s letter of the 2nd June, 1887. 345.—W. C. A.)—W. E. D., June 6, 1887.

Qy. Say that Her Majesty's Government were under an engagement to the German Government to transfer the Settlement of Victoria, Ambas Bay, to German Protectorate as soon as an arrangement should be arrived at for the purchase of the property of the Baptist Missionary Society situate in that Settlement.

Her Majesty's Government were informed that an Agreement for the sale of such property had been executed, and it therefore became their duty, in accordance with their international engagements, to carry out the cession to the German Imperial Government of the Settlement in question.

Her Majesty's Government regret that any difficulties should have arisen with regard to the payment of the remainder of the purchase-money, which would now appear to be due to the Baptist Missionary Society under the terms of the contract of sale entered into on the 26th October last; but they must at the same time point out that the Agreement itself is complete and concluded, and that if one of the parties thereto should fail to carry out any of its provisions, the appropriate remedy is to be found, not at the hands of Her Majesty's Government, but in an appeal to a Court of Law competent to entertain the question.

W. E. D.

June 6, 1887.

No. 74.

Foreign Office to Baptist Missionary Society.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 7, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 2nd May and of the 2nd instant relative to the sale of the Victoria Settlement on the West Coast of Africa to the Basle Missionary Society.

In conveying to you the expression of Lord Salisbury's regret that your letter of the 23rd September last should have inadvertently remained unacknowledged, I am now to state to you, in reply, that Her Majesty's Government were under an engagement to the German Government to transfer the Settlement of Victoria, Ambas Bay, to the German Protectorate as soon as an arrangement should be arrived at for the purchase of the property of the Baptist Missionary Society situated in that Settlement.

Her Majesty's Government were informed that an Agreement for the sale of such property had been executed, and it therefore became their duty, in accordance with their international engagements, to carry out the cession to the German Imperial Government of the Settlement in question.

Her Majesty's Government regret that any difficulties should have arisen with regard to the payment of the remainder of the purchase-money which would now appear to be due to the Baptist Missionary Society under the terms of the contract of sale entered into with the Basle Mission on the 26th October last; but they must at the same time point out that the Agreement itself is complete and concluded, and that, if one of the parties thereto should fail to carry out any of its provisions, the proper remedy is to be found, not at the hands of Her Majesty's Government, but in an appeal to a Court of Law competent to entertain the question.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 75.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet.

(No. 149. Africa.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 8, 1887.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 102, Africa, of the 18th April last, I transmit to your Excellency herewith, for your information, copies of correspondence which has recently passed between the Baptist Missionary Society and this Department respecting certain difficulties which have arisen with regard to the transfer by that Society of their property at Victoria, Ambas Bay, to the Basle Mission Society.*

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

King Ja Ja to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 10.)

My Lord,

Opobo, March 10, 1887.

SOME of the agents in this river have just been telling my people that when Consul Hewett goes home he will do his utmost to obtain a Royal Charter for this river and the countries with which we trade, which would completely stop us from doing any trade.

I will be glad if you will let me know if any effort in this direction is being made. If a Charter is granted, our trade and country are done for. I do not believe this report, as I feel sure that when I have done as you request in permitting any one to go to the interior markets you will not sanction any Charter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JA JA, King of Opobo.

King Ja Ja to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 10.)

My Lord,

Opobo, West Africa, May 5, 1887.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letters of the 4th and 14th March, inclosing copy of Lord Rosebery's decision of the 16th June, 1886. That letter was received by me, but I beg most respectfully to state that one of our most particular grievances is the decision given in that letter, while I hold a letter from Consul Hewett given me in July 1884, when I signed the Protectorate Treaty. In this letter (see copy inclosed). Consul Hewett writes: "The Queen does not want to take your country or your markets." Again he writes: "She has no desire to disturb your rule."

Having this letter, I did not think I was doing wrong in telling the white men in October 1885, when they first went to markets, that having this letter I could not allow them to go.

I also object to Consul Hewett interfering in our country palavers, particularly where they do not in the least concern him. You will please note that, previous to the Protectorate being proclaimed, there were no disputes between him and myself but that regarding the New Calabar palaver, my writing about same to Foreign Office having vexed him.

Regarding the paragraph in Lord Rosebery's letter where it is stated that I have exacted moneys from European traders here, and have barred their access to markets outside my country, and that I have done this simply to swell my own revenues, I must beg to say that this is a wrong idea. In the first place, the markets were made by our forefathers and ourselves, and it is generally known that we have spent nearly 10,000*l.* in keeping them up and opening new ones; the "comey" formerly paid me was all spent to benefit the markets and consequently enlarge our trade with the Europeans.

The "comey" written you about the 13th January last was paid me about two months ago; again, let me say that it has been a very old custom for a new agent coming to Old Bonny to pay the "shake-hands;" it was first given by the traders when I was a boy, and when I came to this country it was willingly paid me, not asked for or demanded by me; it was given as a "dash" or present for the trade done with the giver; other Chiefs besides myself have had it from the traders. My present was 7 puncheons, and was always given me, not otherwise; I was always a large trader, and it was given to secure my trade.

I do again solemnly declare that I had never prevented any of my Chiefs from trading with any of the Europeans in this river; also, that when they spoke to me about the depression of the oil market, I simply told them that they were at liberty to put what price they liked on their goods, but the top-side or discount must be reserved untouched for us. The traders at once refused this my request, and soon after they stopped trading, and when Consul Hewett came they claim for 300 puncheons of palm oil on account of the "shake-hands" or presents given me by themselves and their predecessors for years before. At the time these presents were made me the price of oil was much higher than it was when the 300 puncheons were claimed; I offered to pay the oil these presents represented when made me or to return goods of the same class, but Consul Hewett would not hear of this, and ordered me to pay at the present low rate of oil, which made my payment nearly double the number of puncheons I got.

Admitting that I was wrong in accepting these presents from time to time, Consul

Hewett, in not one of his previous visits (and he being aware of my getting these) objects to these payments, nor did any one of the traders complain to him of them. And now, having put these facts before your Lordship, my Chiefs and myself do crave your Lordship's further consideration of the matter, in which we consider we have not been justly treated.

We feel that Consul Hewett has not in the slightest degree seek the welfare of our people and taken the prosperity of our country at heart, but that he has a desire to destroy our place. His movements and treatments to us are very much the reverse to those of any other Consul that has been with us.

Again craving for your Lordship's further consideration of our grievances.

I may also say that I do not stop any person, black or white, from going to the markets. It is simply this: Five firms would not buy our oil; one bought it, and it being a large amount, the five were vexed. And when Consul Hewett came they raised the claim for 300 puncheons "hand-shakes," so as to do me an injury. Had trade been good, and prices in Europe for oil good, they would never have asked their presents back. This is very true.

Lately, some of the interior Eboe people killed two men belonging to one of my Chiefs in a trade dispute, and when Consul Hewett was here I told him, and he did not take any steps to have the murderers punished. When I told him that I intend sending to catch these murderers, he told me that I would not send as I had now no power whatever over any of the interior people. Now this is very hard, that when these Eboe people do such bad things, we are not able to put a stop to them. Before, when disturbances arose in the interior, I was able at once to put them down and thereby keep trade going. Consul Hewett has gone home and not inquired into this trouble. Consul Hewett also tells me that I am prohibited from taking my war-canoes past the waters of Opobo.

Now, let me say that we have had a very old custom of sending our war-canoes up to Eboe for the purpose of making "Ju Ju," which is simply the celebration of our forefathers' lives and deaths. They go to some of the markets and buy goat-palm wine and other things which are used in making "Ju Ju." "Ju Ju" is our religion, and we must keep it up; we do not go to the markets in our war-canoes to frighten or kill the people, as they are the people who sell us the oil; instead, we do all to be friends with them, so that our trade may be good, and that our money with which they trade may not be lost.

Now, I have put all before you as best I can, but I could say more, and, perhaps, more in our favour if I was before you, but this cannot be as our "Ju Ju" prohibits me from leaving the country.

Now, regarding the "shake-hands dash," do you, looking at the palaver as a just one and consider it right that I should have been made to pay?

An answer by an early steamer will be a favour.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JA JA, King of Opobo.

Inclosure in No. 77.

Consul Hewett to King Ja Ja.

Sir,

"Flirt," at Opobo River, July 1, 1884.

I WRITE, as you request, with reference to the word "Protectorate" as used in the proposed Treaty, that the Queen does not want to take your country or your markets, but at the same time is anxious no other nation should take them. She undertakes to extend her gracious favour and protection, which will leave your country still under your government. She has no wish to disturb your rule, although she is anxious to see your country get up as well as the countries of the other tribes with whom her people have been for so long trading.

Faithfully yours,
(Signed) EDWARD HYDE HEWETT.

Vice-Consul Johnston to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 5. Africa.)

My Lord,

Old Calabar, May 14, 1887.

I REGRET to inform your Lordship that in spite of constant application on my part I have been unable to complete my large Map of the Rio del Rey district and the Report on my surveys in that quarter in time to dispatch them by the mail leaving to-day. I have had few opportunities for quiet, uninterrupted work, as there have been various matters at Victoria requiring my attention, and latterly I have had to leave Mondole to meet Mr. Consul Hewett at Old Calabar. I can, however, assure your Lordship with certainty that the Map and Report will be completed in sufficient time to be sent off by the next homeward-bound mail-steamer in three weeks from the present date.

I am, however, enabled to dispatch by the present opportunity the natural history collections made by me during my exploration of the Rio del Rey. It has seemed to me that, inasmuch as this journey was made at the cost of Her Majesty's Government, it is right that all collections connected with the Rio del Rey expedition should be considered Government property. I have therefore addressed these to your Lordship, but I would venture respectfully to suggest that, with the view of their being added to the national collections at the British Museum and the Royal Gardens, Kew, they may be transferred with the least possible delay to Mr. Philip Lutley Sclater, Secretary to the Zoological Society, 3, Hanover Square, London. Mr. Sclater is the Secretary of the Cameroons Committee, formed by the British Association for the Advancement of Science for the examination of the fauna and flora of the Cameroons district. I have already forwarded to this Committee, from time to time, such natural history collections as I have been enabled to make in my leisure time; and the present objects collected on the Rio del Rey would add to the continuity of the series. Mr. Sclater will distribute the various components of the collection among certain specialists for examination and description, and when assorted everything will be handed over to the authorities at the British Museum and at Kew. If your Lordship concurs with my suggestion, I would further earnestly recommend that these collections be handed over to Mr. Sclater as speedily as possible, because, owing to the dampness of the climate wherein they were collected, and the attacks of insects, the specimens should be quickly placed in the hands of those who are to report on them.

There is one matter connected with this case of collections to which I especially desire to call your Lordship's attention. Placed on the top of the other articles is a large package addressed to your Lordship. This should be taken out and retained, while the remainder of the contents of the case are dispatched to Mr. Sclater. In the package referred to are samples of three kinds of india-rubber collected by me in a district referred to in my forthcoming Report. I was unable to obtain the flowers of any of the trees or creepers producing these several kinds of rubber, but I gathered, and now forward specimens, of the leaves, in the hope that these may assist in the identification of the different sources of rubber supply. I would venture to suggest that your Lordship should direct that these samples of rubber be submitted to the examination of some specialist, in order that the quality and value may be known of what promises to constitute a great source of wealth in this part of West Africa. Incidentally, I might mention that these samples of rubber were obtained from a district which is under British protection to the west of the Rio del Rey. Persons who have seen my samples out here declare the quality of the rubber to be in some samples unusually good.

In conclusion, I would earnestly represent to your Lordship the inadvisability of coming to any agreement with the German Government with regard to the Rio del Rey until the Maps and Reports which I am about to submit to your Lordship's notice have been duly considered. The district of the Rio del Rey is exclusively owned (as a matter of private property) by Calabar Chiefs, and its entire trade flows into British channels. Commercially speaking, it is of the greatest importance to Calabar. Rumours are constantly being set afloat out here that from time to time certain German officials have proceeded to indicate on their own responsibility a line of frontier in the region of the Rio del Rey which is very unfavourable to British interests. I have never attempted to ascertain the truth of these rumours, presuming that the German Government would never countenance on the part of its officials any unauthorized attempt to arbitrarily settle a matter still under the consideration of the

two Governments of Germany and Great Britain. Nevertheless, I mention the existence of these rumours to your Lordship, as they cause considerable perturbation among the Chiefs of Old Calabar. While desiring that the boundary question may be settled to the satisfaction of both parties, I confess I should see with great regret any of the Calabar markets coming under German control, in view of the unfortunate effect on native trade which, from various causes, German rule seems to produce at the present time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

No. 79.

The Marquis of Salisbury to King Ja Ja.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 14, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th May, containing further particulars with regard to your alleged grievances against Mr. Hewett, Her Majesty's Consul at Old Calabar; and, in reply, I beg to inform you that the matter shall receive the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 80.

The Marquis of Salisbury to King Ja Ja.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 16, 1887.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th March last, relative to the question of obtaining a Royal Charter for the River Opobo and the countries with which you trade; and I beg to acquaint you, in reply, that a further communication will be made to you on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 81.

Messrs. Couper, Johnstone, and Co. to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 24.)

My Lord,

58, Bath Street, Glasgow, June 23, 1887.

IN accordance with the recommendation of Consul Hewett, we some time ago sent out a steam-launch, &c., to Opobo, West Coast of Africa, for the purpose of opening up trade with the natives in the markets up river, the Consul having warned King Ja Ja of Opobo that he must neither molest the European traders nor the natives with whom we were going to trade.

We therefore think it proper to acquaint you with the following telegram just received from our agent, via Bonny:—

"Now that Ja Ja sees us ready and determined to go up he threatens us with opposition, armed or otherwise, so we are waiting for the Consul or a gun-boat. Trade stopped."

We have sent a copy of this message to the African Association in Liverpool, of which we are members, and who will no doubt be representing this matter to you officially, and we trust that its urgency will insure your prompt consideration.

We are, &c.
(For Couper, Johnstone, and Co., Limited),
(Signed) WILLIAM COUPER.

Memorandum of Interview with the German Chargé d'Affaires.

PRINCE PLESS left the inclosed papers with me to-day (which he begged might be returned at once), and stated that Count Hatzfeldt would speak to Lord Salisbury respecting the lease of the British Consular residence on Mondole Island.

J. P.

May 20, 1887.

The paper (which has been returned) is the same as that which forms Inclosure 2 in Consul Hewett's No. 13 of the 31st March (annexed).

H. P. A.

May 21, 1887.

See Minute annexed.—J. P.

*Minutes by Sir J. Pauncefote, Sir Villiers Lister, and Mr. Davidson.**British Consular Residence at Mondole Island.*

Lord Salisbury,

Count Hatzfeldt will speak to you on this.

We stipulated that our Consular residence at Mondole "should be recognized as the property of Her Majesty's Government."

The Germans now propose to give us a lease for so long as we may require it as a Consular residence. (See Heads of Agreement annexed.)

There must be a fixed term to a lease, and "so long as we may require it" is rather a vague limit of time. But we are entitled to the house and grounds in perpetuity, and as the private property of the British Government, I do not see on what ground any new conditions should be imposed on our tenure of the house which did not apply before the transfer of the Settlement.

J. P.

May 25, 1887.

S.

Mr. Davidson, for opinion on our title.

T. V. L.

I gather that the facts with regard to the ownership of the land upon which the Consular house on the Island of Mondole is built are as follow:—

The land originally belonged to the Baptist Missionary Society, and has now been by them transferred to the Basle Missionary Society, who are its present owners.

Originally under British Protectorate, it is now under the German flag, but the German Government are not the owners of the property, and have no legal power to grant a lease of it to the British Government or to any one else in derogation of the rights of the Basle Society, who are the legal successors in title of the original owners the Baptist Missionary Society.

The land never was the property of the Government nor of Vice-Consul Johnston, who, however, thinking the situation the most healthy and suitable to be procured on the coast, erected with the consent of the owners of the land his Consular house thereon. The land was never transferred to him or to the Government, nor was any lease ever granted.

In law, the house belongs to the Basle Society at the present moment, on the principle (which, I assume, obtains on the West Coast of Africa, now that it has been brought within civilizing influences) "quodcumque solo ædificatur solo cedit."

It seems to me that Sir Percy Anderson's view of our situation is correct, and that we have no title whatever to the property, and, further, I do not see how the German Government can legally give us one.

Practically, however, if some such agreement can be entered into with the

German Government as is now in course of discussion, the Basle Society, whatever their strict legal rights may be, will find it exceedingly inconvenient to raise them hereafter, and probably any attempt on their part so to do would be summarily suppressed by the German Government.

I therefore think the best thing we can do will be to take what we can, no doubt, at present get, viz., an Agreement on the lines of the draft between Herr von Puttkamer and Mr. Consul Hewett. If we stand out for more, we may find ourselves far worse off in the end.

I see Sir Julian says in his Minute that "we are entitled to the house and grounds in perpetuity," and it may therefore be that there is some evidence on this head of which I am unaware. But there seems nothing in the papers before me to support that view, and there are some statements so strongly supporting the opposite one (see especially Vice-Consul Johnston's No. 18 of the 18th August, 1886, p. 21 of print) that I think it is founded on some misapprehension.

W. E. D.

May 27, 1887.

Mr. Davidson,

I think there is some reason to doubt whether Mondole did belong to the Baptists. If it did not, it could not have been transferred by them to the Basle Mission, and it might even be doubtful whether it was included in the cession to Germany.

T. V. L.

Qy. Ask Baptist Mission Society whether Mondole belonged to them, and, if so, whether it was included in the Agreement with the Basle Mission.

Vice-Consul Johnston evidently has no doubt upon the point, which, from the papers submitted to me, I did not imagine to be in dispute.

But if there be any doubt upon the point, it would certainly be well to clear it up in the manner suggested.

W. E. D.

No. 83.

The Marquis of Salisbury to British Consul, Old Calabar.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, June 24, 1887.

JA JA reported to be stopping trade with interior. Proceed at once to Opobo, and do your utmost to remove obstacles.

If Hewett not available, Johnston should go.

No. 84.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Couper, Johnstone, and Co.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, June 30, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant, stating that a telegram had been received from your agent at Bonny reporting that King Ja Ja has assumed an unfriendly attitude towards Europeans, and had stopped trade; and I am to acquaint you, in reply, that Her Majesty's Consul at Old Calabar has been directed by telegraph to proceed at once to Opobo, and to endeavour to settle the difficulty.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

Messrs. Couper, Johnstone, and Co. to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 7.)

My Lord, 58, Bath Street, Glasgow, July 6, 1887.

WE beg to acknowledge receipt of your Lordship's valued favour of the 30th ultimo, and to express our thanks for the prompt action taken in telegraphing instructions to the Consul at Old Calabar.

We are, &c.

(For Couper, Johnstone, and Co., Limited),

(Signed) WILLIAM NICHOLL, *pro Manager.*

Memorandum by Mr. Davidson upon the British Consular Residence at the Island of Mondole, West Coast of Africa.

THE Island of Mondole is one of three islands which were comprised in the territories of the British Protectorate on the West Coast of Africa known as Victoria, Amba Bay.

A private Society, under the title of the Baptist Missionary Society, were the owners of real property within the limits of the Protectorate or Settlement of Amba Bay, and in such capacity owned (amongst other places) the soil of the Island of Mondole.

This island, being considered by Vice-Consul Johnston to be a peculiarly healthy and convenient place, was by him selected as the site for his Vice-Consular residence, and he, in the first instance, endeavoured to obtain from the Missionary Society an absolute grant to the British Government of a piece of land sufficient for the erection of a Consulate and its necessary appurtenances.

He failed to obtain any such grant from the Missionary Society, and subsequently erected, without interference on their part, a Consular residence upon the island, and fenced in some 12 acres of land round about the house.

During the tenure of office of the late Government an arrangement was come to whereby Her Majesty's Government agreed to cede to the German Imperial Government their Protectorate at Amba Bay as soon as satisfactory arrangements should be arrived at for the purchase of the property owned by the Baptist Missionary Society within that Protectorate.

In the autumn of last year Her Majesty's Government were informed that satisfactory arrangements for the purchase of this property by the Basle Missionary Society had been arrived at, and were called upon by the German Government to carry out the provisional Agreement for the cession of Amba Bay which had been entered into by their predecessors.

The cession was therefore formally carried out, and the Settlement of which Mondole forms a part is now under German sovereignty and the German flag.

Some dispute has now arisen between the Basle Missionary Society (purchasers) and the Baptist Missionary Society (vendors) as to the capacity of the latter to make an absolutely good title to the whole of the property which they have purported by deed of sale to dispose of to the former, but this dispute does not immediately affect the present question. It is, moreover, quite undisputed that Mondole Island did, as a matter of fact, belong to the Baptist Society, and that they, and they alone, could convey a good title thereto to any purchaser.

The strictly legal position, therefore, would appear to be this:—

The land originally belonged to the Baptist Missionary Society, and has now been by them transferred to the Basle Missionary Society.

The Settlement itself was originally under British Protectorate, but is now under the German flag. The German Government are not, however, owners of the property, and have no legal power to grant a lease of it to the British Government or to any one else in derogation of the rights of the Basle Society, who are the legal successors in title of the original owners—the Baptist Missionary Society.

The land has never been transferred to Vice-Consul Johnston or to the British Government, nor has any lease of it ever been granted. In law, the house belongs, not to the British Government nor to the German Government, but to the Basle Society, on the principle (which, I assume, obtains on the West Coast of Africa now that it has been brought within civilizing influences), "*quodcumque solo ædificatur solo cedit.*"

It therefore appears to me that, technically, not only have we no title whatever to the Consular residence and curtilage, but that the German Government are powerless, legally, to give us one.

Practically, however, it is clear that the Basle Society are *au mieux* with the German Government, who have probably induced them to purchase the interest of the Baptist Mission in order that the cession of the Protectorate from Great Britain to themselves might be carried out.

Practically also, if some such Agreement as it is now proposed to sign can be obtained from the German Government, the Basle Society, whatever their strict legal rights may be, will find it exceedingly inconvenient to raise them hereafter when once the Agreement has been executed; and probably any attempt on their part to do so would be summarily suppressed by the German Government.

I therefore think, as the negotiations have gone so far, we had better, without comment, take from the German Government what we can undoubtedly at present get, viz., an Agreement on the lines of the draft which has been proposed by Herr von Puttkamer and Mr. Consul Hewett.

The Agreement amounts, shortly speaking, to a guarantee to us from the German Government for the quiet enjoyment of the Consular house, &c., so long as it is required for official purposes.

As far as the Germans can grant, it is binding on them, while, if they have no power to grant, we are technically no worse off than we should be without the Agreement, and practically are so much the better off that the Germans are pretty sure, after signing such an Agreement, to discourage any attempt on the part of the Basle Mission to assert their own ownership of the soil on which the Consular residence is built.

W. E. D.

July 8, 1887.

No. 87.

Herr von Puttkamer to Prince Bismarck.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Metternich, July 9.)

(Translation.)

Cameroons, May 19, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Highness the following.

Reports had been arriving here, according to which the English Vice-Consul, H. H. Johnston, had lately been following with undiminished vigour his old principle of causing as much disturbance within the German Protectorate as possible. In spite of the cession of Victoria to the German Government, which took place on the 28th March of this year, as soon as he returned (not having been present at the cession) he announced to the inhabitants of Victoria that they were, and remained as before, "British subjects," and were consequently under his jurisdiction. As I did not credit Mr. Johnston, in spite of our previous experience, with so threadbare an argument, I declared to the Victorians, on the occasion of an official journey I lately made in those regions, that there must be a misunderstanding, when they said they thought they were now German subjects, and complained bitterly of Johnston's proceedings; that naturally, "British subjects" or not, as inhabitants of the German Protectorate, they were under the Government of Cameroons through the local authorities appointed by them in Victoria.

Besides this, several members of the community, including the manager of the Woermann factory, Herr Jürs, complained that Mr. Johnston summoned some of the Victorians before his Court at Mondole, and threatened them with fines for non-appearance, although a provisional Law Court had been established at Victoria by the German Government, with an appeal to the Government Court at Cameroons. The people there thought that after the formal annexation of Victoria to the German Protectorate, in the presence of the English civil and military authorities, their political and administrative position would be perfectly clear; but now they have been unsettled again by the proceedings of the English Vice-Consul.

I pointed out to the Victorians that the matter would be submitted to the decision of the Foreign Office, as the opinion of the British Vice-Consul, differing, as it did, altogether from that of the Imperial Government, would render a lasting settlement on the spot impossible. Meanwhile, they would be treated by the Government in completely the same way as the inhabitants of Cameroons and the other tribes of the Protectorate.

The native members of the community declared, on my questioning them, that they

had no wish to claim British nationality; when their territory and town had been declared German, they wished to be German also.

In submitting this matter to your Highness' consideration, I venture to make the following observations.

About fifty years ago a small community collected in the Spanish Island and Colony of Fernando Po, under the wing of the English Baptist Mission, which consisted of a few negro families who for some reason had found themselves obliged to emigrate from the Gold Coast and Sierra Leone. These people came into communication with the Head of the Baptist Mission at Cameroons, the English missionary, Saker, who had done excellent service in exploring the Dualla territory and its language.

The Spanish Governor recognized to a certain degree the black Baptist settlement as English; the latter gained, by means of energetic proselytizing, new members among the Spanish and Portuguese negroes in Fernando Po, who were then simply entered in the registers of the Mission as British subjects.

When the matter began to be inconvenient to the Spanish Government, and specially to the active Spanish Catholic Mission at Fernando Po, in which consideration political intrigues may have been mixed, the whole Society was transported from the island, about thirty years ago. Saker then concluded the famous purchase of the 23rd August, 1858, with the so-called "King William of Bimbia," by which he admittedly acquired a nominal possession of about double the land which this Chieftain ever had to dispose of.

He assigned to the banished community the spot which lay in the middle of the strip of coast he had bought, and which was a very good landing-place then uninhabited. On this spot the immigrants settled under the British flag, and there sprang up the present Victoria. All the neighbouring tribes belonging to the Bakwiri race, as the Boujongo, the Mapanga, and others, were then declared and treated as "British subjects," as being within the imaginary frontiers of the land bought by Saker, although the few to whom it was attempted to explain this contested the fact in a most decided manner, and, in consequence, kept up a perpetual feud with the Victorians—a feud which has lasted to the present time.

Notwithstanding this, it is presumed that Mr. Johnston would claim the Boujongo people as "British subjects," a claim which he has already put forward at a former time.

From self-evident reasons of State it can never be admitted that the inhabitants of a Colony, especially a young one, should have a foreign nationality. It might seem different in the case of the real Victorians. These immigrated certainly as British subjects, although as black as their neighbours, the Bakwiri. The Spanish and Portuguese negroes who came afterwards, and entered into the Baptist community, naturally also assumed the new nationality. But, still, it is impossible to tolerate within the German Protectorate, and in Victoria in particular, a black community remaining British by nationality. The confusion which would be caused in the Heads of the native population excludes such a possibility; and as, according to German* law, the son of an Englishman is also English, it would make such a state of things permanent.

The only other course open would be to allow the coloured inhabitants of Victoria to choose whether they would be German or English, and then to deport those who decided for England, granting them a certain time and every consideration in connection with the realization of their property, both personal and real.

I should have preferred to discuss the question direct with the English Vice-Consul, in order to extract his authentic opinions from him. Mr. Johnston was absent, as is usual when he is wanted. He has taken to the bad habit of appearing from time to time in Victoria, issuing his rash ukases, and then disappearing for weeks at a time in the interior of the country or going to Calabar, so that it is impossible to get hold of him for an indefinite period of time. He never notifies his arrival at, or departure from, Mondole to the Governor, and, as far as I know, the last time he was at Cameroons was in March. An official and personal intercourse with any useful results is thereby greatly prejudiced. The current affairs in Cameroons are too important, and the cost of going to Victoria too high, to admit of steaming there very often, on the chance of possibly finding Mr. Johnston.

(Signed)

v. PUTTKAMER.

* ? English.—E. H.

Minutes by Sir J. Pauncefote, Sir E. Hertslet, and Sir P. Anderson.

Count Metternich called to-day for Count Hatzfeldt and left the annexed extract from a despatch of the German Acting Governor of the Cameroons (Herr von Puttkamer) setting forth his complaints against the attitude of Consul Johnston, which formed the subject of a verbal communication made yesterday by Count Hatzfeldt to Lord Salisbury.

Count Metternich added that on the 23rd February Baron von Plessen communicated the complaints of the German Government respecting Consul Johnston's action. The Consul, he said, had stated that the Amba Bay Settlement would always remain British, and Baron Plessen had asked that the fact of the cession should be communicated by telegram to the Consul. To that communication from Baron Plessen no reply had been received.

J. P.

July 9, 1887.

I am afraid I can say but little on this subject without knowing what has really transpired about the cession of Amba Bay, Victoria, to Germany.

The question was raised in December last, and I then wrote a Minute (of which I kept no copy), in which I think I suggested that further papers on the subject should be laid before Parliament, since it was stated, in the exchange of notes which passed between Lord Granville and Count Münster in April 1885, relative to the respective spheres of action of this country and Germany in the Gulf of Guinea, that the Settlement of Amba Bay, Victoria, was excluded from that arrangement; but that it was added that, "if the German Government should be able themselves to come to a satisfactory arrangement with the missionaries, there being no political necessity involved, the difficulty as to the cession of Amba Bay would disappear, and Her Majesty's Government would be ready to agree to its being included in the territories to be placed, in accordance with the arrangement, under German protection."

At the time I wrote my Minute I recollect seeing papers in which it was stated that the German Government had made a satisfactory arrangement with the missionaries, and the Law Officers, on being consulted, made a Report on the subject, of which a copy is annexed.

I also remember stating that, so far as I was aware, Amba Bay, Victoria, never was a "British Colony," but I believe others took a different view. I also expressed an opinion that we were now bound in honour to fulfil our engagement with Germany and give up the territory to them, but I have no recollection of having seen the document by which it was given up, if any such document was actually signed and published.

If nothing was said therein about British subjects being allowed to elect their nationality, I don't see how they could now claim to be considered as British subjects, if the territory has actually passed from being under British protection to being under German protection.

I observe that it is stated in the Law Officers' Report of the 13th December, 1886, that "the British subjects settled in Amba Bay have now sold their property and withdrawn from that territory." Is this so?

E. H.

July 22, 1887.

Since writing my Memorandum of the 22nd instant I have been shown Consul Hewett's despatch No. 13 of the 31st March last, in which he inclosed a copy of the Proclamation which was issued when Victoria was transferred to Germany; and as he says therein that "this Settlement of Victoria no longer forms part of Her Majesty's dominions, but is transferred to, and is placed under, the Imperial German Government," I do not see how it would be possible to support Mr. Johnston's view, that the inhabitants of Victoria still remained British subjects, and would consequently be "under his jurisdiction."

Some years ago the Islands of Crab and Passage were claimed as being under British sovereignty, but after years of discussion it was decided to recognize the *de facto* sovereignty of Spain over them, and a public Notice was issued by the Governor of the Virgin Islands to that effect, but I never heard that the inhabitants still considered themselves to be British subjects notwithstanding (State Papers, vol. lvi, p. 1184).

Again, when the Bay Islands were ceded to Honduras, it was stipulated that the property of the inhabitants and their religious worship should be respected, but that in all

other respects they remained subject to the laws of the Republic, although the right was reserved to them to withdraw from the islands should they wish to do so (Hertslet's Treaties, vol. xi, p. 368).

E. H.

July 25, 1887.

It is difficult to believe that Mr. Johnston could really entertain the view or have given expression to it.

Qy. Now write to him for explanations, pointing out to him that the Victorians have become German subjects, and that he should take care not to produce a contrary impression.

H. P. A.

July 26, 1887.

No. 88.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet.

(No. 171. Africa.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 12, 1887.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 223, Africa, of the 1st October last, I have to acquaint your Excellency that Baron von Plessen called here some time since to inquire whether Her Majesty's Government were ready to agree to the proposal respecting the house and grounds at Mondole required for the Vice-Consular residence. I am now to request you to be good enough to inform the German Government that Her Majesty's Government are content to accept the arrangement with regard to the house and grounds in question, as set forth in the Heads of Agreement prepared by Mr. Consul Hewett, and his Excellency Baron von Soden, copy of which is inclosed herewith for your information.*

Baron von Plessen states that the papers containing the terms of agreement was in the possession of the German Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 89.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Scott.

(No. 180. Africa.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 26, 1887.

COUNT HATZFELDT has communicated the Memorandum of which copy is inclosed,† embodying complaints preferred by the Governor of Cameroons against Vice-Consul Johnston.

I have to request you to state to Count Bismarck that it seems hardly possible that the Vice-Consul, who was perfectly aware of the policy of Her Majesty's Government, could have acted in the manner reported, but that the matter will be investigated.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 90.

Acting Consul Johnston to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 7. Africa.)

My Lord,

Mondole Island, Ambas Bay, June 14, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have just returned from a brief visit to the Cameroons River, in the course of which I received very satisfactory assurances from the German authorities as to their desire to further in all ways the well-being and extension of British commercial enterprise within the Imperial Protectorate.

I was personally much gratified by the extremely cordial manner in which I was

* Inclosure 2 in No. 69.

† No. 87.

received, and I cannot but feel encouraged to believe for the future that any official duties in the Vice-Consulate of the Cameroons will be materially lightened by the friendly co-operation of the German authorities. Several difficulties had arisen both as regards British and British-protected subjects, and in more than one case the German officials had interpreted the law in a very lenient manner, being frankly desirous of conciliating the important British Colony which carries on such large commercial transactions in the Cameroons Protectorate.

Trade is steadily improving, both at Victoria and in the Cameroons River. Even to the south, in Batanga, there seems to be an apparent amelioration in the hitherto stagnant condition of the markets. The production of rubber, which, at Victoria, was scarcely existent two years ago, has undergone such great increase in the vicinity of the Cameroons Mountain that it is likely to materially influence the development of the above-named place. The Acting Governor (Herr von Puttkamer) informed me that the German Government intends shortly to build at Victoria (and possibly also on Mondole Island), and that resident officials will be placed there, and constant communication kept up with the Cameroons River.

Within a fortnight from the date of this despatch all pilotage dues will be abolished, and the navigable channels of the Cameroons River will be accurately buoyed. In place of the pilots' fees, a small increase will be made in the harbour dues (imposed on the tonnage) to recoup the German Government for the expense of buoying the river. This change will be of considerable importance to British shipping, as it will mean the decrease of 6*l.* or 7*l.* in the expenses of each ascent of the river, and, in the case of the English mail-steamers, a total saving of 14*l.* in their outward and homeward calls.

The German Government also contemplate another alteration in the local taxation of considerable importance to British commerce, namely, the institution of import instead of export duties. It is intended that all exports shall be free, while, on certain articles imported, moderate duties shall be levied. This proposed change seems to be favourably regarded by the British merchants in the Cameroons, the more so, as in the most considerate and courteous manner the Governor (Baron von Soden) has requested in a private letter an expression of their personal opinion, and the opinion of their firms in England as to the most suitable imports to bear taxation, and has also assured them that their views will have great weight with him in his ultimate decision.

In this, as in other matters of late, I think the German authorities of the Cameroons have made pretty evident their decided intention to encourage the spread of British commercial enterprise throughout the Imperial Protectorate, and no doubt in so doing they are not only actuated by a sincere desire to further the interests of the subjects of a friendly nation, but they are also convinced that the extension and prosperity of British trade in the Cameroons district will increase the revenues and aid in the development of the country.

There are two questions which I have promised the Acting Governor of the Cameroons to place before your Lordship's consideration.

The first is with regard to the inhabitants of the town of Victoria (Ambas Bay). Are these people (mostly of Sierra Leone or Fernando Po origin, their forefathers having been slaves freed by British cruisers) to be considered British subjects, or were they, in common with the place itself, transferred to Germany? At present they claim alternately German or English protection, according as it suits their interests, and by this vacillation of allegiance they give rise to great annoyance to both sides. The German authorities are perfectly willing to recognize as British subjects all persons born or naturalized in actual British possessions, or even in the employment of British missionaries or merchants, but they not unnaturally object to the entire population of a town in their dominions being considered of alien nationality, and in such a decision as this, they would probably decree that all such individuals should "opt"—should be allowed a fixed period of time within which to dispose of their property and remove outside German territory, or should decide, if they remain at Victoria, to become German subjects.

The second question is that of the Anglo-German boundary in the district of the Rio del Rey. I fear that—quite unintentionally—I myself have hitherto been an obstacle to the speedy settlement of this matter, because of the delay in forwarding my Maps and Report of my recent surveys. Unfortunately, it is impossible for me to entirely abstract myself from my official duties, and, consequently, I have had very little time at my disposal for reducing my surveys to a careful Chart, or for condensing my notes into a Report.

I have been constantly disappointed in my efforts to complete my work by being called away to attend to Consular duties. I am hoping now, however, to terminate my Map very speedily, and probably the same mail which carries this despatch will also

convey the results of my surveys in the district of the Rio del Rey. In any case, before a very brief interval all this information will be at your Lordship's disposal.

What I have more immediately to report on the subject is the request of the Acting Governor of the Cameroons to the effect that your Lordship would permit copies of my Maps to be printed and distributed to the German Government and the German authorities out here. I am led to believe that the Germans, not having made any complete survey of their own, will be disposed to accept my Map for the purposes of delimiting the frontier.

The Acting Governor of the Cameroons is further desirous that, as soon as the British and Imperial German Governments have arrived at a settlement of the line of frontier, your Lordship may see fit to appoint some person or persons acquainted with the territory in question, and the interests involved, to act as Commissioner for Her Majesty in the demarcation of the boundary of the British Protectorate. In the interests of British and German commerce, it is desirable that this matter of the frontier should be determined as speedily as possible from the sea to the rapids of the Cross River.

I will treat further on this subject in forwarding my Map to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

No. 91.

Foreign Office to Acting Consul Johnston.

(No. 3. Africa.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 29, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to inform you that the Governor of the Cameroons sent to his Government, apparently after receiving the visit from you to which you referred in your despatch No. 7 of the 14th June, a Report which has formed the basis of a formal complaint from the German Government.

His Excellency appears to have considered that you were pursuing the policy of causing as much disturbance as possible in the German Protectorate. He has stated that you had announced to the Victorians that they were still British subjects under your jurisdiction, and that he had evidence that you had summoned some Victorians before your Court at Mondole, and had threatened them with fines for non-appearance, although a provisional Law Court had been established at Victoria by the German authorities with, an appeal to the Governor.

I cannot but think, especially after reading your despatch No. 7 of the 14th June, that there must be some misapprehension or great exaggeration in relation to these complaints.

As regards the question of jurisdiction, Consul Hewett has stated verbally that he instructed you not to hold Courts nor attempt to exercise jurisdiction, your judicial powers under the West Africa Order in Council having ceased to exist within the German Protectorate.

It will be advisable that you should take prompt steps to make this generally known.

As regards the question of the nationality of the inhabitants of Victoria, it is not possible to lay down any general rule. The native inhabitants who prefer to quit the Settlement sooner than accept the new German allegiance can preserve their nationality their nationality of origin by removing from the place.

British subjects and other foreigners who have resorted to the Settlement, and were residing there at the date of its transfer to Germany, do not lose their nationality of origin by continuing to reside there.

The question of nationality must be decided according to the circumstances of each case, but all the inhabitants, without exception, are now under German jurisdiction, and owe obedience to German law.

I shall be glad to receive any observations you may have to make on the complaints of the Governor of the Cameroons, and in the meanwhile you will guide yourself by the above observations.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 92.

Mr. Scott to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 78. Africa.)

My Lord,

Berlin, July 30, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to state that, in compliance with the instructions of your Lordship's despatch No. 180, Africa, of the 26th instant, I informed Count Berchem yesterday that the charges brought by the Governor of Cameroons against Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston would at once be investigated, but that it seemed hardly possible that that gentleman, who was perfectly aware of the policy of Her Majesty's Government, could have acted in the manner reported.

Count Berchem begged me to thank your Lordship for the assurance that this matter would be inquired into. He could assure me that the German Foreign Office had had great reluctance in bringing such serious charges against Mr. Johnston under official notice of Her Majesty's Government, and that they had only done so after repeated representations, and on the strongest evidence.

Baron von Soden, he said, was the last person in the world to bring charges of this nature lightly against any one.

His position, Count Berchem said, was necessarily a very difficult one, and it would not make matters easier if the natives were to judge the relations of our two Governments to each other by the relations which Mr. Johnston appeared to have established between himself and the German Governor of Cameroons.

Count Berchem said he was prepared to make every allowance for the position of Mr. Johnston, who had earned the reputation of an eminent explorer and man of science, and would naturally find it hard to content himself with the uneventful and comparatively inglorious duties of his present post.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES S. SCOTT.

No. 93.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Count Hatzfeldt.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Foreign Office, August 2, 1887.

WITH reference to the communication left by Count Metternich on the 20th ultimo, containing certain modifications in the form of Agreement signed by Herr von Puttkamer and Mr. Hewett with regard to the lease of a site for the British Consular residence in Mondole Island,* I have the honour to acquaint your Excellency that Mr. Johnston, Acting British Consul at Old Calabar, has now been informed that Her Majesty's Government have accepted the Agreement in the form amended by the German Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 94.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Scott.

(No. 190. Africa.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 3, 1887.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 171, Africa, of the 12th ultimo, I have to acquaint you that the German Ambassador has requested that Mr. Johnston, Acting British Consul at Old Calabar, might be informed that Her Majesty's Government have accepted the form of Agreement with regard to the Consular residence at Mondole Island in the form amended by the German Government; and I transmit to you herewith, for your information, copies of the accompanying correspondence on the subject.†

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

* See Inclosure in No. 95.

† Nos. 93 and 95.

No. 95.

Foreign Office to Acting Consul Johnston.

(No. 15.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 3, 1887.

WITH reference to Mr. Hewett's despatch No. 13 of the 31st March, forwarding copy of the Agreement signed by himself and Herr von Puttkamer respecting the lease to be granted to Her Majesty's Government of a site for a Consular residence in Mondole Island, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acquaint you that two modifications have since been inserted therein by the German Government, and that the Agreement has been accepted by Her Majesty's Government in the amended form, copy of which is inclosed herewith for your information.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

Inclosure in No. 95.

Agreement as amended at the request of the German Government.

A LEASE to be granted by the Government to the British Government of that portion hereinafter described of the Island of "Mondole" as marked out by Her Majesty's Consul, Mr. Hewett, and the Chancellor of Cameroons, Herr von Puttkamer, for such time as the British Government may require it solely for purposes of a Consular residence.

The rent to be paid by the British Government to be of the nominal amount of 1s. per annum.

Ground and house not to be liable to any rates or taxes.

A piece of ground on the beach about 20 feet broad, and now used by the Vice-Consul for keeping his boat, to be included in the ground above mentioned.

The ground above referred to shall extend from a line running west-south-west and east-north-east 64 metres distant from and parallel with the south-south-east end of the Vice-Consul's house, the west-south-west arm to terminate at the sea; the east-north-east arm to be drawn to a point on the path leading from the beach to the house where the Mission house at "Victoria" bears north-east, thence by the shortest line to the sea.

These bearings are magnetic.

Victoria, March 28, 1887.

v. P.

E. H. H.

No. 96.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Scott.

(No. 194. Africa.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 4, 1887.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 78, Africa, of the 30th ultimo, I transmit copy of a despatch from Vice-Consul Johnston.* It is not my wish that you should read this to Count Bismarck, but it would be advisable that you should mention its contents, and observe that Mr. Johnston has written in the most friendly spirit as regards the German authorities, and appeared to think that an amicable reference was to be made to the Governments at home for a decision as to the nationality question, which they were unable to solve on the spot.

I inclose also copy of an instruction which has been addressed to him,† the substance of which you are at liberty to communicate.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

* No. 90.

† No. 31.

No. 96*.

Acting Consul Johnston to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 6.)

(Telegraphic.)

Bonny, August 6, 1887.

JA JA agrees remove restrictions free trade markets interior.

No. 97.

Acting Consul Johnston to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 9. Africa.)

My Lord,

Old Calabar, July 14, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship my Report on the survey of the Rio del Rey, and a large Chart (on the scale of 1 inch to the geographical mile) which I have executed to illustrate the above Report.

Since the departure on leave of absence of Mr. Consul Hewett, I have been so deeply engaged in the work of the Consular district that I have found it impossible to devote much time to the arrangement of my notes, and consequently the Report herein mentioned is not as comprehensive as I had wished to make it. I trust, however, that it will convey sufficient information for your Lordship's consideration of the Anglo-German boundary question, and should I have unwittingly omitted to determine any disputed point, I shall be glad to place any further knowledge I may have acquired at your Lordship's disposal.

I would venture respectfully to suggest that, if reproductions on a reduced scale are made of my Map, your Lordship may see fit to cause copies to be distributed to the Royal Geographical Society and the Scottish Geographical Society, and also to the representatives of the British firms trading within this Consular district. Perhaps, also, as mentioned in my despatch No. 7 of the 14th June, to the German authorities of the Cameroons Protectorate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 97.

Report by Acting Consul Johnston on the Survey of the Rio del Rey.

ON the 27th December, 1826, I left Mondole Island in my Consular gig with the intention of crossing the sea to the mouth of the Rio del Rey, and after ascending that problematical river for a certain distance, of proceeding through the creeks to Old Calabar, where I had been summoned to meet Mr. Consul Hewett. I took with me a native canoe to transport the bulk of my men and my baggage, as the gig would not contain more than a very limited amount of either. Fortunately, the period of the year (December) was one in which, although rain still falls occasionally, the weather is usually clear and the sea smooth; otherwise, this mode of travel, namely, sailing in a small open six-oared boat and towing an unwieldy canoe, is not to be recommended either for comfort or safety in a journey of some distance across the open sea. However, it is a means of visiting certain parts of my district which I frequently have to adopt as the mail-steamers cannot be expected to diverge from their fixed routes, and Her Majesty's ships avoid this part of the coast as much as possible on account of its supposed unhealthiness.

On this occasion, however, I was not very loth to incur the risks and discomforts attendant on a somewhat uncertain method of locomotion because it would enable me to visit at my leisure the little-known coast lying to the north of the Cameroons Mountains, which has recently attracted some attention from the richness of the supplies of rubber which its forests produce, and for the teeming fisheries of its shallow shores.

Soon after quitting the sheltered haven of Amba Bay, we were for some distance embarrassed by a sudden squall of wind and rain, and the boat lurched dangerously in the heavy rollers, so I made for a little cove on the northern side of Point Limbo and put in here—where a native market was being held—until the fine weather reasserted itself and the sea had calmed down. Then we resumed our journey, sailing tranquilly

along a coast which, for grandeur of aspect and tender beauty of detail, could scarcely be surpassed in scenery. The abrupt conical peak of Etinde (usually called by the English Lesser Cameroons), which marks the seaward extremity of that mass of extinct volcanoes known as the Cameroons Mountains, rises straight from the seashore to a height of over 6,000 feet, seeming, indeed, a stupendous cliff. In spite of its precipitous sides, it is densely clothed with virgin forest to the summit and the velvety-green covering of trees follows closely all the sinuosities, all the deeply scored ravines of the crater's sides. Sailing along at its base in a small boat and gazing up at the cone of the peak, which is often delicately veiled with a lace-like wreath of white cloud, then following with the eye the cascades of many-hued foliage which seem to course down the flanks of the mountain-cliff to the white line of foaming breakers at its foot, the spectacle forms one of the grandest combinations of coast and mountain scenery which can be met with in any part of the world. The seaward sites of the Etinde Mountain are too steep for the habitation of man (except near the base) and are at present frequented only by herds of elephants, but from the inland where the mountain joins the connecting ridge of the volcanic chain an ascent may be made without much difficulty.

Turning round Cape Dibunja, we came into the Bamboko country, and in the later afternoon we landed at Bibundi, which may almost be called the capital of this district. This pretty little town is pleasantly situated near the mouth of the Bibundi River amid scenery of exquisite beauty. The small river, when approaching the seashore, spreads itself into lagoons of glassy stillness which are dotted with tiny islets of pandanus and palm. The species of palm which is here represented is the *Phanix spinosa*, a humble ally of the date palm, and at the season of the year when I paid my first visit to Bibundi, these trees (which scarcely exceed 30 feet in height) were hung with huge clusters of small yellow fruit resembling the true date in flavour, but being poorly provided with edible pulp. Bibundi lies almost in the centre of the populous Bamboko district, and has just recently become a great emporium of the rubber trade. There is a Swedish merchant trading here who has recently built on the point at the mouth of the river.

The Bamboko or Bomboko country ("—mboko" is the root and the prefixes "Mo—," "Ba—," "Bo—," mean respectively one man of the "—mboko" country, the people of "—mboko" and the country itself) extends from the western slopes of the Cameroons Mountains to the marshy country of Barondo on the north, where that extraordinary maze of creeks, rivers, and lagoons commences and extends uninterruptedly across the Old Calabar and Niger deltas to the boundaries of the Gold Coast Colony.

The people of Bomboko are an industrious and quiet race, of fine physique and pleasant manners. They are closely akin to the surrounding tribes of Bakwiri, Barondo, and Bakundu, and are also but little separate in language and racial affinities from the Isubu people of Bimbria and the Duala of the Cameroons River. Their language is a dialect of Isubu, and this again is a member of the great Bantu family of African tongues which occupy to the exclusion of almost all other forms of speech the whole southern half of Africa from the sources of the Nile to the Cape of Good Hope and from Fernando Po to Zanzibar.

After remaining a day and a-half to examine the trade resources of Bibundi, I continued my coasting journey towards the Rio del Rey. The Madale rocks ("madale" = stones) near Cape Bombo Betika offered a very curious spectacle. They rose high out of the water in slender pinnacles, and at a distance resembled a fleet of fishing-boats, the similarity being heightened by the covering of guano with which some of them were whitened, for they were the resort of many herons and terns who rested in their crannies and fished from their overhanging projections. A considerable current was flowing southwards round Cape Bombo Betika, and my men had to take to their oars to assist the feeble breeze in bearing the boat round the point. When this was accomplished we made better progress, and I was therefore loth to stop at a large fishing village known as "Korindene" ("Big Kori") on the north side of Bombo Betika, although my men were very desirous to do so on the chance of obtaining some fresh fish.

However, not much further on, in another indentation of the coast, we espied the blue smoke curling up through rich groves of bananas and knew that another native village was situated there. This, in fact, was "Little Kori" ("Kori musali"), and, as midday was close at hand, I steered the boat into the shallow shore where the far-stretching mud-flats broke the force of the surf and where landing was safe and easily accomplished. Here we were enthusiastically received by the fisher-folk, who led us up

into their strong-smelling town (which, although kept fairly clean, reeked with the odour of putrid fish), and pressed on our acceptance large quantities of smoke-cured fish that were skewered on sticks, some with their tails in their mouths like whiting, others spread open in haddock fashion. Sprinkled with a little salt and pepper and fried in butter they were really exceedingly good, and I ate of them nearly as heartily as my men. To my Kroo-boys Little Kori seemed an earthly paradise with its wealth of fishy food, its long mealy plantations, and its honey-sweet bananas. Almost pathetically, and in language unconsciously Biblical, they besought me to stay there, "for the place was good;" but after our meal was over and we had renewed our supplies of fresh water, I inexorably insisted on continuing our journey.

The two Koris, Great and Little, are said to have been founded by some refugee families of Duala people from the Cameroons River. Certainly, the Kori people speak a dialect greatly resembling the Duala language, but then this resemblance might also be attributed to the surrounding Barondo and Bakundu speech, which differs but very slightly from the tongue of the Cameroons. However, on the strength of their Duala descent, the people of Little Kori welcomed with effusive cordiality a son of King Bell of Cameroons who happened to be with me as my servant, and established to their own satisfaction and to his the exact degree of consanguinity between them.

The great industry at the two Kori Settlements and also along this coast as far as the corner of the Bight, lies in the catching and curing of fish, which are exported far and wide to the natives of the interior, who frequently exchange the vegetable food stuffs of their plantations for the products of the fisheries. The villages of the seaboard are, on the whole, well kept and clean despite their fishy smell, and are composed of well-built houses, quite different from the mere huts of the natives on the Cameroons Mountains.

In these relatively spacious dwellings there is usually a central hall devoted to the fish-smoking fires, and under the roof are wicker-work racks on which the cured and skewered fish are stored away in hundreds. On each side of this hall-kitchen are little compartments partitioned off as sleeping-rooms and also stables for the goats and cows. The population of these fishing villages are quiet, hospitable, and well-mannered folk who have had hitherto very little contact with white men, for, until the recent events of the past three years connected with the extension of British and German rule in these regions, the coast between Amba Bay and the Rio del Rey was almost a *terra incognita* to Europeans. I should rather say, perhaps, that it had become so, because we have reason to believe that in the days of the Slave Trade those low-lying lands and quiet creeks were by no means unknown to the slavers of English, Portuguese, and Spanish nationality who resorted to the chief outlets of this labyrinth of sluggish channels to exchange their cargoes of European wares for ship-loads of negroes. Indeed, it is curious to reflect that the inhabitants of Old Calabar, now and for many years past the most important, thickly-populated, and most civilized of all the trading Settlements in the Oil Rivers, originally only heard of white men through the medium of these slave-trading fishermen inhabiting the marshy coast, and to this day a European is called in Calabar by a word, "Mukara," which is borrowed from the Bantu tongues of the region I am describing.

Leaving Little Kori in the afternoon we reached the town of Bamasó at sunset. This fishing Settlement is situated at the mouth of a creek on a patch of soil amid mangrove marshes.

There are other villages in the vicinity, all engaged in fishing and fish-curing, and all frequented by numbers of native traders from Old Calabar, who arrive in big sailing-canoes, and assume a very swaggering and boastful demeanour among the unsophisticated fishermen.

I passed the night very comfortably at Bamasó, and my men as usual revelled in huge meals of smoked fish. Having prevailed on a Calabar man to accompany me as my guide, I sailed my boat the next morning across the sea to the mouth of the Rio del Rey, and thus commenced the ascent of that river. After several hours' journey up the broad estuary, I stopped for a short time at the opening of an important branch on the left bank (which I subsequently named the River Ndiañ), but as this promised to lead me in an opposite direction to Old Calabar, whither I was eventually bound, I preferred to continue my journey up what appeared to be the main river. Higher up this again branched off to the eastward, and farther on a broad creek entered on the western side, and then the great river, which in its lower course had offered a breadth of 9 or 10 miles, speedily dwindled down to a narrow insignificant creek scarcely 20 yards in width.

It was 10 o'clock at night, and in a frightful thunderstorm, that we arrived at the little Settlement, which I have marked as "Arsibon's village" in my Map. Drenched with the hissing rain and deafened with the thunder, despairing of finding, amid the dreary mangrove swamps which surrounded us any firm ground whereon to land and seek a shelter from the weather, a vivid flash of lightning suddenly revealed a white sandbank and several huts, some canoes tied to stakes, and a background of variegated trees which—from their not being mangroves—announced the vicinity of the solid ground. Our loud cries soon awakened the inhabitants, and their flickering torches of palm fibres assisted us to find our way to the beach when the lightning failed. In a wonderfully short space of time we were all located in clean dry huts, with blazing fires to dry our sodden clothes, and a hot supper to revive our exhausted vitality. The people here—slaves and followers of Arsibon Edem (son of the late King)—treated us with the utmost kindness, and asked for no present in return, although, of course, I did not leave without distributing a few small gifts, if only to pay for our supper.

On the following day my Calabar guide led me into the Great Akpayafé or Akwayafé River (at that time an unknown stream), and thence by creeks, little and big, into the Old Calabar estuary, up which I sailed and rowed until, at midnight on the 1st January of the present year, I arrived at Old Calabar and moored my boat alongside Messrs. Harrison's factory.

From the 2nd to the 26th January I remained at Old Calabar engaged in Consular business with Mr. Consul Hewett. I also utilized the latter part of my stay in this place to make more effective arrangements for my survey of the Rio del Rey. It had become clear to me, during my journey from Mondole, that my Consular gig was utterly unfitted for the work I had in hand. She could offer no proper shelter from either sun or rain, and lacked the necessary space to accommodate my baggage and men. Some of the creeks, moreover, through which I should have to pass would not be sufficiently wide to permit of oars being plied, and paddles would have been of but little use in propelling a somewhat heavy boat against stream and tide. So I sent my gig back to Mondole by the mail-steamer, and looked out for some other means of travel. I somewhat inclined at first to a land journey, but a brief consideration of its difficulties, attendant on the want of native porters and the lack of roads, convinced me that it was an impracticable manner of tracing the sources of the Rio del Rey. Finally, I decided on hiring one of the large Calabar canoes which have a small house in the centre.

From the Chief Yellow Duke I obtained, with little delay, a canoe of the kind required. It was nearly 40 feet in length, with ample accommodation for my twenty men and my ton of luggage.

Moreover, the little house in the middle became a very comfortable and snug abode when the roof had been rendered rain-tight and the interior had been fitted up with shelves and hooks. It was about 7 feet by 6 in area, and 5 in height, provided with two doors and two windows, and a compartment or cupboard for stores beneath the flooring. Herein I could find room for my bed, a small table, and some necessary boxes, while the shelves and hooks held a variety of articles which I wished to have close at hand.

The whole aspect of the canoe greatly resembled a child's Noah's Ark. It was an unwieldy and cumbersome craft, but on the whole well suited to the navigation of sluggish winding creeks.

On the morning of the 26th January I left Old Calabar to recommence my survey. We paddled down the Old Calabar River and estuary till we came to what is sometimes called the Little Akwa River, up which we turned, and then, after passing through a deep but extremely narrow creeklet, we entered the Great Akwayafé River, at that time a puzzle to me, because, although constantly visited by the Calabar people, it was neither known by survey nor report to Europeans. I found it hard to believe that so large and important a stream should have remained so long unrepresented on any Map.

We passed the first night after leaving Old Calabar at a Calabar Settlement on the Akwayafé River, known as "Henshaw Tobie's Plantation." "Henshaw Tobie" (a European corruption of Ansa Dubi), now deceased, was a native "gentleman" of Old Calabar, and his property is still called by his name. His people treated us with the usual kindness and hospitality which we received everywhere throughout these journeys. The next day we made our way through the "Arsibon Creek" to the Rio del Rey, and I decided to follow the first important branch on the left bank. This took us, with many windings, in an easterly direction, and after getting mixed up with the River Ndiañ and a bewildering congeries of other creeks, it finally led us into the Mboma-

njinga River. I descended the broad estuary of this stream, and entering the Ndobe or Edombi Creek on the left bank, I followed this most tortuous channel until it gradually diminished in size to a narrow creeklet and we found ourselves at the limit of navigation. Here the ground had become firm and even rocky, and as I landed on the beach of Yellow Duke's trading establishment, although the tide still rose and fell on the muddy shore, the marshy land was at an end and I walked along a dry stony path through magnificent forest to the well-built village of Edobe, a large Settlement jointly inhabited by the indigenes of the countries (Barondo people) and the followers of Yellow Duke who were chiefly natives of Old Calabar.

Whilst remaining at this place for a few days to fix its position by observations for latitude and longitude, I was pleasantly surprised by the unexpected arrival of Consul Hewett, Lieutenant Prater, R.N. (commanding Her Majesty's ship "Rifleman"), a number of gunners, marines, and blue-jackets, and the Chief Yellow Duke himself. I learnt that they had come to rescue me. It appeared that an absurd and utterly unfounded report had been spread abroad to the effect that I had been captured by the natives of the Rio del Rey, and Mr. Hewett, fearing there might be some basis of truth in the rumour, had come to my assistance. However, finding that I was perfectly safe and that the very few natives whom I had encountered on my journey had either fled at my approach or had timidly offered their hospitality, he and his party, after a brief rest, returned to Calabar, and I resumed my survey.

During the course of the months of February and March I visited and mapped almost the whole district lying between Old Calabar and the base of the Cameroons Mountains, and the results of my surveys are embodied in the large Chart forwarded with this Report. I had wished, before concluding my work in this region, to have completed the exploration of the Mboma-njinga River as far as its source in or near the little mountain lake of Mbu, but in trying to ascend the rapids of the stream my canoe was capsized and I lost nearly all my stores, while most of my surviving instruments were completely spoilt. This unfortunate mishap compelled me to bring my journeys to a close, as the privations caused by the loss of my provisions, together with the effects of a severe chill, affected my health for some considerable time.

I will conclude the Report of my survey with special notes on the natural history, geographical and political features of the region under review. These, together with the details of my large Map, will, I trust, furnish Her Majesty's Government with a comprehensive account of the district through which the Anglo-German boundary has to be drawn.

Note (A).—*Ethnology, &c.*

The region stretching from Old Calabar and the Cross River to the base of the Cameroons Mountains is very interesting from an ethnological point of view because it is, on the West Coast of Africa, the borderland of the Bantu. South of the River Ndiañ, which flows into the Rio del Rey, the population, with the exception of a few scattered colonies of Calabar traders, belongs in race and language to the great Bantu family, which stretches uninterruptedly eastward and southward from the Cameroons to Zanzibar and to Natal. North of the Ndiañ River we enter that interesting belt extending across the Continent of Africa southward of the Sahara desert from Senegambia to Abyssinia, which may be conveniently known by its Arab name—the Soudan.

Here, in contrast to the homogeneity of race and language which prevails on the southern half of Africa, we find an amazing variety of negro and negroid races, and an uncounted number of dissimilar tongues.

The inhabitants of the district of Old Calabar chiefly belong to the Efik tribe, and their language, which bears the same name, is a form of speech which offers very few points of similarity with the surrounding idioms. The Efik people, now the ruling race along the lower courses of the Cross and Old Calabar Rivers, appear to have emigrated over a hundred years ago from a district on the Cross River adjoining the Ibo country. Pushing their way towards the sea, they dispossessed and partially absorbed or drove away the former inhabitants of the district now known as Old Calabar (Calabar is a word of obscure origin, first used by the Portuguese).

The Efik people, or their congeners speaking an almost identical language, have penetrated to the Kwô-Ibo River, on the west, while little trading colonies, started from Old Calabar, are dotted here and there among the Bantu tribes, beyond the Rio del Rey.

The Calabarese are keen traders, and all their trade flows exclusively to Old Calabar, where it is entirely absorbed by British merchants.

The English language is widely known among them, and they are never slow to remember that they are British-protected subjects. Great Britain has a distinct interest in encouraging the loyalty and supporting the interests of the Efik people.

Between Old Calabar and the Akwayafé River there still linger remnants of the older possessors of the land, such as the Akwa, or Qua people. These helot races have imitated their Efik Rulers in many things, but their languages scarcely bear any affinities to the Efik dialects.

The farther one travels in a south-easterly direction from Old Calabar the more sparsely the country is inhabited, until the land on the southern side of the Mboma-njinga River begins to rise into hills and mountains, and then one finds oneself approaching the populous country of the Bakundu people. These, in common with the closely-allied Barondo (who inhabit the coast and advance in little isolated Settlements into the Calabar territory) are the first tribes speaking purely Bantu languages which are to be met with in journeying from Old Calabar towards the Cameroons.

The Bakundu speech, which is also common to the Barondo, is almost identical with the Duala of the Cameroons River. This is a rather curious fact, as the two kindred dialects are separated by many intervening Bantu languages which are greatly dissimilar.

The architecture, manners, and customs of the Bakundu-Barondo people are also those of the Duala, and of the neighbouring Bantu tribes to the south and east, and, save where direct Efik influence has been exerted and deliberate imitation has taken place, there is little resemblance of the mode of building, the customary practices, and the current superstitions of Old Calabar.

On the other hand, the Efik people have certainly received their architecture and their ethics from the Niger Basin.

Note (B).—Natural History and Commercial Products.

The fauna and flora of this region are typically West African. In the dense forests chimpanzees, mandril baboons, and many diverse species of small *Cercopithecus* monkeys abound. Fruit-eating bats cluster in thousands round the sycamore fig-trees and the calamus palms.

The leopard is the predominant beast of prey; the lion is unknown. The elephant is abundant and ruthlessly devastates the plantations if not resolutely hunted. The Calabar people are loth to attack him in spite of the bait offered by his splendid white ivories, but the Bakundu people farther south attack the great beast most energetically, and surround him with such crowds of clamorous, yelling hunters that he is too dazed to offer a dangerous resistance.

The Bakundu villages are generally decorated with elephants' skulls, which are looked upon as "strong medicine."

The hippopotamus has long since disappeared from the vicinity of Old Calabar, and affects none of the neighbouring streams except the Mboma-njinga River, where I once saw them.

That curious aquatic herbivore, the manatee, frequents the mangrove creeks and is often killed by the fishermen of the sea-coast. Red River hogs (*Potamochoerus*) are common, and I have seen the little pig-like ruminant (*Hyomys*). Water-loving antelopes of the genera *Cobus*, *Tragelaphus*, and *Cephalophus* are frequently met with. Occasionally one hears of the little red buffalo (*Bubalus brachyceros*), and the scaly ant-eater (*Manis*) is not unknown.

Birds, which are most noticeable from their numbers, are grey parrots, fruit-doves, turacos, and splendid blue plantain-eaters, hornbills, kingfishers, rollers, shrikes, bulbuls, sunbirds, bee-eaters, goat-suckers, cuckoos, fishing-vultures, fishing-eagles, herons, storks, pelicans, and a great variety of wading and water birds.

Crocodiles are not often seen; huge monitor lizards abound, chameleons are common. As in most parts of tropical Africa, the snakes are rarely met with.

The few I have collected were lovely green whip snakes, horned vipers, cobras, and pythons.

All the rivers are most abundantly supplied with fish.

The botany of this region is so amazingly rich where the firm ground replaces the mangrove creeks that it would be impossible for me, in this Report, to enumerate its many exemplars of fantastic beauty, strange development, or natural wealth. In the interests of commerce, however, I might remark that there are four kinds of trees or creepers—a *figus*, a *landolphia*, and two others which I have not identified—producing rubber, specimens of which I have transmitted to the Foreign Office for examination.

The oil palm grows wild in the forests (in most parts of Africa it is only met with in a semi-cultivated state). The *calamus*, or "bamboo" palm, and the *raphia vinifera* are exceedingly abundant, and the cocoa-nut grows wherever man has settled. The ebony tree, the camwood, barwood, and redwood trees are all present in this region (where the marshy ground ceases). The shea-butter tree is found in the interior, among the hills.

Various kinds of acacias and albizzias exude thick gums resembling what is known as "false copal." There are many timber woods of proved value and beauty of grain. Unfortunately, the specimens which I had collected in order to forward for inspection were lost in the capsizing of my canoe. Orchilla lichen is found in quantities in the mountain forests, and many species of edible fungi are present in the woods.

For an average distance of 40 miles from the sea the soil is chiefly a thick stratum of mud overlying sand or gravel. Here and there elevated islands of gravelly soil, with small fragments of porphyry and quartz, rise above the dead level of the mangrove marshes, and these are invariably the site of native villages and plantations; or, in certain instances, although there is scarcely any perceptible elevation above the marsh, little tracts of clean sandy soil may be met with, which are at once distinguishable from a distance by the varied vegetation they support. But with these exceptions, the marshy, low-lying ground continues up to the base of the interior chain of hills, where it abruptly gives place to the out-cropping rocks.

Here all the rivers have their first falls, which may either be magnificent cascades of 80 feet in descent or mere rapids not impossible of ascent. The rocks are chiefly basalt, clay-slate, iron-stone, porphyry, and quartz. Iron is clearly present in the soil. Mica is found in most of the stream valleys, and there are traces of antimony.

Note (C).—*Rivers and Waterways.*

The Old Calabar River rises in the Uyaña Hills, in about latitude $5^{\circ} 42'$, flows nearly parallel with the Cross River, of which it is an affluent, and joins the estuary of this stream about 27 miles from the sea. As far as Old Town, there is an average depth of about 18 feet. The river is further navigable for large canoes as far as Uwet, where the rapids begin. Much trade is done along the navigable course of the Old Calabar River. The whole commerce of the district lies in the hands of British firms. The native population of the entire district of Old Calabar or Efik probably exceeds 80,000, including the slaves of the Efik people.

The Akwa River is another affluent of the great Calabar estuary. It also rises in that chain of mountains which runs almost uninterruptedly in a north-easterly direction from the Cameroons Mountains to the Cross River. From a place named Esu Atu (where the Akwa River in one of its bends approaches within $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the Old Calabar), to its junction with the Calabar estuary, this stream has an average depth of about 10 feet. Above Esu Atu the river is only navigable for canoes, and they cannot travel further than the Ekoñ rapids. In its upper course the Akwa River flows through the Ekoi country, and the lands along its lower waters are inhabited by the Akwa people and by little colonies of Calabarese. It is often called the "Plantation River," because the exceedingly rich and fertile soil along its banks tempts even the lazy Calabarese to turn to agriculture. The Akwa River communicates, on the one hand, with the Calabar River, by means of a narrow creek, and, on the other, by a most tortuous channel with the great Akwayafé River.

The Akwayafé, or, perhaps, more correctly, the Akpayafé River, was entirely unknown to Europeans before my recent journey. The exact locality of its source I was not able to determine, although I followed the course of the stream on foot for a distance of 10 miles beyond the last rapids. When I left the river to return, it had shrunk to a mere brook. The great difficulties I incurred in forcing my way through the densely-forested, hilly country bordering the upper waters of this stream compelled me to desist from attempting to fix its exact source. As it was, I had to cut a road through the forest for over 10 miles past the falls in order to penetrate along the upper course of the river. All this country was utterly uninhabited by man. The forests are of great value, as they can supply enormous quantities of rubber, ebony, and dye-woods.

The soil of this stream valley is full of mica, and also shows indication of deposits of iron.

In following up the Akwayafé River I arrived close to the base of a very striking mountain, the height of which I approximately computed at 5,500 feet. Although

this altitude is nothing remarkable, yet, as the mountain is rather isolated and rises from plains but little above the sea level, it is visible from many points at a considerable distance. As there is apparently no native name for this prominent peak, I have ventured to call it "Mount Hewett," after Edward Hyde Hewett, Esq., G.M.G., Her Majesty's Consul for the Bights of Benin and Biafra, a gentleman who has always taken great interest in the extension of British influence over these rich lands in the interior. I trust that geographers will recognize this nomenclature.

The last falls of the Akwayafé River form a most enchanting picture. The river, here of considerable volume, descends in two breaks a height of over 80 feet, and the mass of water is for a brief while confined within the rim of a nearly circular rocky basis, where it churns itself into a frothy whirlpool.

Through a slit only 8 feet broad the powerful stream finds egress from its confined limits, and then breaks away through a ravine of great beauty, where the lofty forest trees almost form an arch of foliage over head.

About a mile below the falls there is a small village of three houses, and lower down is situated the important trading place of Esu Orrorup. This town is inhabited by Calabar people, and there is overland communication with the Ndiān River and the country of Rombi to the east. After leaving Orrorup no other Settlement is met with along the river's banks for a considerable distance, until we arrive at the large town of Ifiañ, on the right bank. Ifiañ is inhabited both by Calabar people and by an indigenous race of people who call themselves "Ifiañ," and are under their own Chief, though living in a kind of vassalage to the Calabarese. From their language I should suppose them to be akin to the Akwa tribes. Nearly opposite Ifiañ is the outlet of the important Efut Creek, navigable for boats drawing not more than 6 feet as far as the large and flourishing town and plantation of a Calabar man named Ekanem Essen, who is an adherent of the House of Arsiboñ. The Efut Creek leads into the heart of a very rich country; rich, that is to say, in natural produce.

On the left bank of the Akwayafé, some distance below the Efut Creek, is the new and extensive Settlement of the Arsiboñs, important Calabar Chiefs. On various creeks flowing into the Akwayafé River they have other small villages and trading stations.

On the right bank of this now wide and island-studded river is a pleasantly situated village about 6 miles below Arsiboñ Town. It is generally known as "Henshaw Tobie's," although Henshaw Tobie, the first man to build there, has long been dead.

At the back are large and thriving plantations. Two little fishing villages are situated on each bank of the Akwayafé River, close to its entrance into the Calabar estuary.

As will be noticed on my Map, the Akwayafé River feeds the Rio del Rey with several important creeks.

The Rio del Rey is in fact what may be termed a "huge unnecessary estuary," which serves as a common receptacle for a great number of creeks that are, most of them, little more than the escapes to the overflow of neighbouring rivers. The only stream which has any right to be considered the true Rio del Rey is the River Ndiān.

This stream descends from the same ridge of highlands that contains the sources of the Old Calabar, Akwa, and Akwayafé Rivers. I have discovered but one Settlement on its banks, the prettily situated town of Ndiān or Ndiāñi. This is inhabited by Calabar traders.

Some little distance off, on the opposite bank of the stream, there are a few Barondo villages, otherwise this country is almost void of inhabitants.

The Ndiān River flows through lovely scenery above the tidal reaches. It is about 7 feet in average depth, and is navigable for large canoes as far as the falls.

Several creeks connect the Ndiān River with the large stream called by the Calabar people "Mboma-njinga," by the Bakundu "Beke," and by the English the "Little Rio del Rey."

The Mboma-njinga, or Beke, rises in or near to the little Lake of Mbu in the Rombi country (named on the Maps Balombi ba Mbu, which is simply the designation of the Ba-rombi or Ba-lombi tribes on its banks), and has a very tortuous course of over 100 miles to the sea. It is navigable for canoes in the rainy season as far as the rapids of Kabi.

In one part of its course it widens out into a lake-like expanse, frequented by many hippopotamuses.

On the northern shore of this marshy sheet of water is the important town of Ngoñgo, which carries on an overland trade, principally in slaves, with Calabar.

After flowing through the populous Bakundu country, the River Beke or Mboma-njinga skirts the Rombi Mountains, and descends in a series of rapids into the marshy plain of their base, afterwards winding in the most tortuous manner till it finally discharges through several branches into a fine broad estuary, which is also fed by other streams.

The lower rapids of the Mboma-njinga are, I am informed, easily passed by canoes in the rainy season, and direct water communication thus exists between Ngoŋgo and the sea, but in the dry season I found one of the rapids practicably impassable, and after making several attempts to ascend the impetuous rush of water, my canoe was whirled against a projecting branch and capsized. I thus sustained very serious losses in stores and instruments, and the incident brought my survey to a rather abrupt close. Fortunately, I lost none of my note-books, maps, nor drawings, nor anything indeed but what could be readily replaced.

The Mboma-njinga River may be regarded as lying quite outside the sphere of British influence. There are, it is true, a few Calabar men who visit its banks for trade, but nearly all the commerce is carried on with the Duala traders of the Cameroons River.

Note (D).—*The Anglo-German Boundary.*

If I might be allowed to offer an opinion, I would suggest that the most satisfactory delimitation of the boundary between the British and German Protectorates would be for the western limit of German rule in the Cameroons to follow the left bank of the Rio del Rey from the sea to the mouth of the Ndiañ River, and then, continuing along the left bank of the main stream of the Ndiañ as far as the source of that river, to follow a straight line drawn in a north-easterly direction from the source of the Ndiañ to the rapids of the Cross River, an approximate distance of 40 miles.

From this point of the Cross River, as already arranged, the boundary strikes right across the bend of the Upper Binué. As previously mentioned, the Ndiañ River is in many respects a suitable boundary as it marks a distinct ethnographical frontier. On the northern side the ruling inhabitants mainly belong to the Calabar tribes and speak the Efik language or tongues akin thereto; at any rate (with the exception of a few straggling Barondo Settlements of semi-slaves) they all agree in not being Bantu, and all their trade is directed to Old Calabar. Moreover, the ruling Chiefs have placed themselves by Treaty under British protection (1884). On the southern side of the Ndiañ River the Calabar Settlements are only, as far as I can ascertain, two in number, and the bulk of the population consists of purely Bantu tribes such as the Barondo and Bakundu, who, in their language, physique, superstitions, and customs, are related to the people of the Cameroons, the Congo, and the South-west Coast, and to the races of the great Lakes, the Zambesi, the East Coast, Zululand, and Natal. With the exception of the two Calabar Settlements, the greater part of the commerce south of the Ndiañ River is carried on with Cameroons.

An essential consideration to be remembered in delimiting the frontier is the great importance of the Akwayafé River to Old Calabar. Some of the richest oil-markets of the district, all of them worked by Calabarese, are situated on or near that stream, while the wealth of rubber and valuable timber in the countries through which it flows promise a rich return to those who have the enterprise to exploit these products.

I know, as a matter of fact, that two or three British traders are only waiting for the Akwayafé River to be definitely included within the British Protectorate to acquire land and open up the country along its banks. The Calabar Chiefs who have Settlements on the Akwayafé or its affluents are equally anxious to receive the assurance that their possessions are under British protection.

Should any portion of the course of the Akwayafé River be alienated from British rule, it would produce a most unfortunate impression at Old Calabar.

Note (E).—*On the Orthography of this Report and the accompanying Map.*

In spelling native names I have adopted in all cases, save where long use had sanctioned the older orthography, a simple and logical phonetic system, now used by most of the scientific and missionary Societies, and modelled more particularly on Lepsius's standard alphabet. Its main principles are that the vowels are pronounced as in Italian, and the consonants as in English. There are, however, a few modifications to which I would draw attention:—

The vowel "o" is pronounced like "o" in "not." When written long, as "ô," it is pronounced "aw." These two sounds are well represented in the two Italian words, "ho," I have, and "buono," good. The sound of "o" as in "bone" (really a diphthong) is but rarely met with in African languages. Where it occurs I write it with the Greek Ω.

"Ñ" or "ñ" represents the nasal sound in the words "bang," or "singing." Thus, the name Ndiañ is pronounced as if written in our clumsy English orthography, "Ndeeahng."

With regard to the large Map which I forward with this Report, I should like to remark that I do not hold myself responsible for the correctness of such portions of it as are not derived from my own surveys. My own routes are marked with a red line. The remainder of the Map is filled in from the best information available, but it cannot be relied on for absolute accuracy.

In naming rivers, towns, or districts on the Map I have endeavoured to distinguish them by the most generally accepted and readily recognizable names. In many cases it has been difficult to find any name at all, for either the river flowed through uninhabited country or the townspeople concealed the name of the Settlement, out of timid suspicion, or the district had received no comprehensive designation, and I was therefore obliged to choose an appellation of my own, which will, no doubt, serve its purpose until the country is better known.

(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 97.

Map of the Rio del Rey.

No. 98.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Couper, Johnstone, and Co.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 10, 1887.

WITH reference to my letter of the 30th June, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to inform you that a telegram has been received from Mr. Johnston, Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Old Calabar, stating that Ja Ja has agreed to remove restrictions on trade, and will permit free communications with the markets in the interior.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 99.

African Association to Foreign Office.—(Received August 11.)

Sir,

19, Castle Street, Liverpool, August 10, 1887.

I AM instructed by the above Association to hand you the accompanying extracts from letters of their correspondents, in reference to your request of the deputation from us which waited upon you yesterday.

I am, &c.

(Signed) J. HAMPDEN JACKSON, *Secretary.*

Inclosure in No. 99.

Extracts from Letters received by the African Association from their Correspondents at Opobo River, West Coast of Africa.

June 29, 1887.

WE left in launches on the 15th instant for Ahombebe, the principal Eboe market, to receive a final answer from natives as to trading there. On arrival we sent interpreters ashore, who reported people in a great state of terror and afraid to be seen talking to them. They stated that Ja Ja had sent some of his Chiefs since our last visit and had deposed the King and put another in his place, favourable to himself, also

that he had threatened their lives for receiving us, and would bring his canoes in five days to chastise them. We had to wait several hours before we could get a meeting of Chiefs, and in meantime could see a great many of Ja Ja's people parading the town armed with rifles, &c. At the meeting the King put in by Ja Ja attended, and stated that Ja Ja had made and owned the country, and that he would not receive white men to trade there. In this he was corrected by some of the other Chiefs, who stated that it was only fear of Ja Ja that kept them from welcoming us. And another Chief, who has been very hospitable to us, stated publicly before all the people that Ja Ja had threatened to kill him for receiving us, and corroborated what the interpreters had previously heard, and even begged of us to stay and protect him. Next day we went with interpreter and told every one who would give us an audience that we could see it was Ja Ja's interference that kept them from allowing us to trade, and that we would go and bring the palaver on his shoulders. On our return we warned Ja Ja against interfering or punishing the Ahombele people, and we then decided, as nothing could be done without the Consul's help, to wire, and on the 21st telegraphed:—

"Ja Ja threatens to fight market people if trade with us. Wire Foreign Office to send Consul with gun-boat. Eboe markets closed meantime. Trade stopped."

June 18, 1887.

Started for Ahombele, and on arriving there in the afternoon sent Asmah, the interpreter, to Babah to tell him we had come. In the morning went up the creek, and on the way met a large gig-canoë full of men belonging to Cookey Oko Ja Ja and Ja Ja, in charge of one of Ja Ja's people, a man we all know by sight, but not by name. On arriving in town went to Babah's house, but were told that Babah was at a meeting of Chiefs in the town. . . . Mary Stowe, one of our interpreters, went into the house to see some of the women, and found them in great distress and grief. They informed her, on being asked what the matter was, that they were afraid they were all going to be killed, as Ja Ja had sent up messages saying that Babah had been receiving white men in his house, had given them "tumbo," and that he would kill them for having done so. They told Mary Stowe to go away quickly, as they did not want any Opobo men to see her in the house. We went down to the beach, and after waiting some time sent Asmah up to try and find Babah. He found him, and Babah told him he was in great trouble; that Ja Ja had thrice sent up messengers (twice Cookey and once another man), who told him that as he had received white men in his house he had made an enemy of Ja Ja, and that he would kill him for it. He also stated that Cookey had informed him that the Opobo people in their canoes in force would be up in five days, and perhaps Ja Ja himself. . . . We noticed particularly whilst in the town that the Opobo men, more particularly Ja Ja's men, were all armed with rifles, with which they were parading the town, and which we continually heard fired off.

[Remainder of letter repeats details of previous extract.]

June 27, 1887.

We have again been to Ahombele, and found the people there in a state of absolute terror, Ja Ja having sent messages to them that he will kill those who receive the white men to trade. . . . The Opobo people, who appear to have concentrated at Ahombele, are all armed with rifles, evidently trying to intimidate the Ahombele people as much as possible. With great difficulty we got a few Chiefs together, who told us that the whole country was in favour of Europeans trading there, but that they were afraid of Ja Ja.

19, Castle Street, Liverpool, August 10, 1887.

No. 100.

Messrs. Couper, Johnstone, and Co. to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 13.)

My Lord,

58, Bath Street, Glasgow, August 12, 1887.

WE beg to acknowledge your favour of 10th instant, informing us that Ja Ja has agreed to remove restrictions on trade in the Opobo River, and to permit free communication with the markets in the interior, for which we are much obliged.

We are, &c.

(For Couper, Johnstone, and Co., Limited),

(Signed) WILLIAM COUPER, Manager.

No. 101.

Foreign Office to Consul Hewett.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 15, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you herewith extracts of certain letters relating to the recent proceedings of Ja Ja which have been received by the African Association of Liverpool from their correspondents on the West Coast of Africa,* and which have been communicated by that body to this Department.

I am to instruct you to furnish his Lordship with a Report upon Ja Ja's conduct as described in these documents, and at the same time to state what measures you would recommend should be taken with regard to him.

I am to add that from a recent telegram, dated the 6th instant, received from Acting Consul Johnston, it appears that Ja Ja has removed the restrictive measures with regard to trade which he had taken, and which were complained of by the British trading community.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 102.

Acting Consul Johnston to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(Telegraphic.)

Bonny, August 19, 1887.

THROUGH Ja Ja's action, Agreement made with us markets broken. Obligated prohibit Ja Ja trading until fulfils engagement.

No. 103.

Messrs. A. Miller, Brother, and Co. to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 20.)

My Lord,

55, Waterloo Street, Glasgow, August 19, 1887.

WE have the honour to inform your Lordship that by the steam-ship "Opobo," due in Liverpool next Wednesday, the 23rd instant, we expect two of the native Chiefs of Opobo, who have been sent by Ja Ja to represent to your Lordship the state of matters in that place, and to put before your Lordship the views of Ja Ja and his people in regard to the Consular action during the last two years. It is unnecessary that we should state anything to your Lordship on this matter, as the Representatives will be able to state the facts better than we can.

We have to request that your Lordship will have the kindness to grant an interview to them as early as convenient on or after Monday, the 29th instant. We have felt that the Consular action in Opobo has of late been rather one-sided and in opposition to the native interests and the furtherance of cordial relations between them and Europeans; and if your Lordship grants an interview we shall be glad of your permission for Mr. David Farquhar, our representative at Opobo, who also comes per steam-ship "Opobo," to appear with them, that he may afford your Lordship the opportunity of hearing his views.

We have to state that we received this afternoon a cablegram from Opobo stating that Acting Consul Johnston has stopped the trade of the Europeans there, and has also interfered, and is attempting to stop the trade carried on by Ja Ja and his people. The Acting Consul is well aware of the mission to this country of the Representatives from Opobo who seek an interview with your Lordship, and he cannot but know that such action has the tendency to make matters worse instead of better. We have cabled our agent at Opobo to continue our business as usual until we have the opportunity of communicating with your Lordship.

The immediate stoppage without due notice of such an important business as is carried on by us at Opobo involves most serious loss in itself, and our fleet of large steamers, which are arriving at Opobo and sailing from there for Europe at short intervals, would remain idle, at such enormous expense and loss that we venture to hope that your Lordship will not disapprove of our action.

We have, &c.

(Signed) ALEX. MILLER, BROTHER, AND Co.

* Inclosure in No. 99.

Minute by Mr. Wylde.

This is rather a momentous letter, as it threatens the Foreign Office with a terrible visitation.

Ja Ja is sending two Chiefs to seek an interview with Lord Salisbury, at which they may detail their grievances against the Consular proceedings at Opobo. If the interview is granted, it will probably last out "a night in winter."

Miller and Co. further complain of Vice-Consul Johnston's action in stopping the trade, and add that they hope the Foreign Office will not disapprove of their having wired to their agents to pay no attention to the Consul's fiat. The result of this is that a very edifying spectacle is being presented at Opobo, which cannot fail to be instructive to the blacks.

Unless Lord Salisbury consents to see Ja Ja's men—

Qy. Answer that it would be preferable if Mr. D. Farquhar and the two Chiefs would put what they have to say in writing, but that if they make a point of attending at the Foreign Office Lord Salisbury will take the requisite steps for having their representations attended to.

Add that his Lordship cannot, without further details and reports from Acting Consul Johnston, express an opinion on the firm's action, which, however, at first sight, appears injudicious.

Refer correspondence to Consul Hewett for observations.

E. W. W.

August 20, 1887.

No. 104.

Foreign Office to Consul Hewett.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 20, 1887.

WITH reference to my letter of the 15th instant, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to state to you that the following telegram has this afternoon been received from Acting Consul Johnston:—

"Through Ja Ja's action, agreement made with us as to markets broken; obliged prohibit Ja Ja's trading until fulfils engagement."

I am to add that his Lordship would be glad to be placed in possession of your views as to the course that should be adopted towards this Chief with as little delay as possible.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 105.

Sir E. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 88. Africa.)

My Lord,

Berlin, August 19, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, in obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 194, Africa, of the 4th instant, I have mentioned to Count Berchem, Acting Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the contents of Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston's despatch No. 7 of the 14th June, and that I dwelt upon the friendly spirit which it evinced towards the German authorities, and I communicated to him the substance of your Lordship's despatch to Mr. Johnston No. 3 of the 29th July.

Count Berchem was glad to receive the information, and expressed the hope that the friendly intercourse between the German authorities and Mr. Johnston would be continued. He, at the same time, maintained that Herr von Puttkamer, the Acting Governor, had reported that Mr. Johnston had raised several difficulties regarding the treatment of certain Chiefs and their allegiance. I pointed out to Count Berchem that Mr. Johnston's despatch clearly showed that he thought that amicable reference should be made to the two Governments as to the nationality questions which could not be settled on the spot.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Consul Hewett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 22.)

(Africa.)

My Lord,

8, Exhibition Road, South Kensington, August 20, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Sir Villiers Lister's despatch of the 15th instant, inclosing copies of extracts of letters relating to the recent proceedings of Ja Ja at the markets where the Opobo people trade; and, in obedience to your Lordship's instructions, I beg to submit the following observations on the subject of Ja Ja's conduct, and the measures that I would recommend should be taken with regard to him.

The information conveyed in the extracts of the letters did not surprise me, for I was well aware that Ja Ja would certainly indirectly, if not directly, oppose any attempt on the part of the European agents to trade in the interior, as it would interfere with, and eventually entirely abolish, his and his Chiefs' occupation as middlemen if they succeeded in establishing themselves at the markets. In this instance Ja Ja has disregarded the letter to him from Lord Rosebery which was inclosed for delivery in his Lordship's despatch No. 21 of the 16th June, 1886, to me. This letter I read out at a meeting at which the European traders, Ja Ja, and his Chiefs were present; and I have no hesitation in averring that Ja Ja thoroughly understood the wishes and intentions of Her Majesty's Government as regards the freedom of trade between Europeans and the natives of the interior, for I took the trouble to explain to him that the white men were to be as unrestricted in their access to, and in their trade at, the native markets, as he was to ship his oil to England and have it sold there on his own account.

From the observations made by Ja Ja and his Chiefs on that occasion, I am positive they fully comprehended that Her Majesty's Government were determined to break up the monopoly that Opobo, as well as the other countries on the coast in my district, had hitherto enjoyed of the trade at the inland markets—a monopoly which told seriously against the European traders, and was as unfair to them as to the natives there, and which, while it was allowed to continue, precluded all hope of the spread of civilization or the development of the natural resources of the country.

It was with a full knowledge and understanding of the offence he was committing in attempting, by cunning and underhand means, and by a gross abuse of his influence and power, to prevent the natives at the markets from having any intercourse whatever with the agents who went up to establish friendly and commercial relations with them, that Ja Ja took the action which has been brought to your Lordship's notice by the Liverpool African Association. It is not sufficient to know that he has removed the restrictive measures with regard to trade which he had imposed. Those measures were adopted under no misapprehension on Ja Ja's part as to whether he was doing right or wrong; they were taken with the undoubted object of opposing and thwarting Her Majesty's Government in what he considered their unjust interference with his rights. The excuse cannot be allowed him this time which was suggested by Lord Rosebery in the letter to Ja Ja above referred to as a reason for treating him with leniency, viz., that he had not had the benefit of a Consular officer to advise him, or to whom he could refer. Ja Ja has transgressed with his eyes open; and I cannot but think that it would now be advisable, in the interests of trade, for the establishment of amicable relations with the natives of the interior as well as for the destruction of a pernicious system of government, that this upstart of a King—a man who is as unprincipled as he is cruel and unjust—should be dealt with in a severe and exemplary manner.

The clemency with which Ja Ja for his misdeeds has hitherto been treated by Her Majesty's Government having failed to effect any change for the better in him, I respectfully submit that a fine of 1,500*l.*, equal to about 200 puncheons of palm oil, be imposed on him personally—not on his house; that he be deposed, and deported to St. Helena or Ascension, or some place not on the West Coast of Africa, for such a period as Her Majesty's Government may find it expedient, in the estimation of which they would be guided by the behaviour of the Opobo people, the state of affairs in the country, and the abstention of the Chiefs from interference with the trade of Europeans and other aliens with the natives at the markets, except by fair and legitimate competition; that the Chiefs from the markets should be invited to Opobo to witness Ja Ja's departure from the country; that two men-of-war be detailed to go to Opobo—one to take him away, the other to remain a few days in the river and afterwards cruise about the district, visiting Bonny, New Calabar, and Brass, and looking in occasionally to Opobo; that the King of Ahombebe, who was deposed by Ja Ja, be restored to his former position, *vice* the creature of Ja Ja whom the traders found installed as Head of the country; that during Ja Ja's absence, his son Saturday be placed at the head of the

house, who shall, through the Consul, remit to Her Majesty's Government every quarter a sum to be fixed on by them to cover the expense of subsistence, &c., of Ja Ja and his suite, which should not consist of many persons; that a Council of five Chiefs, with Urantu as President, should be appointed to govern the country of Opobo under the supervision of the Consul.

There is one recommendation I would suggest as being urgently necessary: it is the appointment of a Vice-Consul to reside at Opobo, to whom matters of minor importance could at once be referred, while those of greater importance would be forwarded on by him to the Consul. In the event of Ja Ja not being removed from the country, it is of still greater moment that such an appointment be made.

Should your Lordship sanction the adoption of the measure I have suggested as to the deportation of Ja Ja, if your Lordship pleases, I will draw up a scheme for the government of Opobo, entering into details which I have thought unnecessary to do in this despatch.

I am convinced, my Lord, if the steps I have herein recommended be taken with regard to Ja Ja, that not only will he receive the punishment he has merited for his offences, but a most salutary effect will be produced in the other rivers; and while the natives of the interior will perceive that Her Majesty's Government will not brook the attempts of native Chiefs to thwart their endeavours to carry civilization and commerce beyond the territories of the seaboard tribes, they will at the same time learn to respect the power and majesty of the Queen.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD HYDE HEWETT.

P.S. August 22.—I open this despatch to add, with reference to Sir Villiers Lister's despatch of the 20th August, that the telegram sent by Mr. Acting Consul Johnston appears to afford additional evidence that very strong measures should without delay be taken against Ja Ja; and I venture to hope that the serious step Mr. Johnston has taken in stopping trade at Opobo will receive your Lordship's approval, for I feel confident he would not have adopted such stringent measures had he not been obliged to do so.

E. H. H.

Minutes by Sir Villiers Lister and the Marquis of Salisbury.

Lord Salisbury,

Ja Ja is a false and cruel Chief under our Protectorate, who interferes with British traders and missionaries, breaks Treaties, and laughs at Her Majesty's Government. The cup of his iniquity is now full, and you will see what Consul Hewett proposes to do with him. I have discussed the matter with him, and am quite convinced that any further leniency will have a disastrous effect.

If you agree, we should send instructions at once to Vice-Consul Johnston, and tell the Admiralty to carry out the necessary measures.

I think we should tell Messrs. Miller that you cannot consider the question of receiving Ja Ja's emissaries until they have fully stated their case in writing. But, in the meanwhile, that you most strongly disapprove their action in instructing their agents to defy the authority of the Vice-Consul, an act which deprives them of all claims for protection or support, and which may entail most serious consequences for which they will be held responsible.

T. V. L.

August 22, 1887.

Lord Salisbury.

I am afraid that you will have to receive the deputation, and to deport Ja Ja.

There is great excitement about the matter in West Coast African circles, and Mr. Forwood (Admiralty) will introduce the deputation.

There will be no difficulty, therefore, about the ships.

We must support our Consul, and, if a severe lesson is not given to Ja Ja, all the other Chiefs will become uncontrollable, and civil wars and destruction of trade will ensue.

You have had a Memorandum as to the large amount of trade, and there can be no difficulty about the ships.

Pauncefote has no doubts as to our right of stopping trade or deporting Ja Ja.

T. V. L.

August 24, 1887.

I will speak to Lord George in Cabinet.

These West African expeditions are most unremunerative.

S.

It is evident we can do nothing until Ja Ja's Embassy has been heard.

But the papers sent in this box are incomplete. The whole case against Ja Ja is that he has broken faith; because, unless he has made some promise to the contrary, we are not entitled to call upon him to admit our traders into parts of his country where they have never been admitted before.

Please let me have the papers showing the nature of the promises made by Ja Ja which he is alleged to have broken.

S.

August 25, 1887.

No. 107.

African Association to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 23.)

My Lord,

Liverpool, August 23, 1887.

WE, the African Association, representing five-sixths of the merchants trading in the Opobo River, Western Africa, earnestly pray your Lordship to deport the Chief of that river called "Ja Ja," who has for some time past caused considerable trouble to the native traders of the river and to ourselves, breaking his repeated promises made to Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, which he has invariably done the moment the Consul has left the river.

We quite approve of the action of the Acting Consul in suspending the trade of the river pending your Lordship's instructions, although at a very considerable loss to us, having five steamers and other vessels lying idle in consequence of this stoppage.

We are confident that no other step but this man's removal will meet this serious difficulty, and that this would have a most salutary effect upon the Chiefs of other rivers on the coast, who are watching keenly the outcome of Ja Ja's defiant action.

We are, &c.

The African Association,

(Signed)

T. STANLEY ROGERSON, *Chairman.*

No. 108.

Memorandum by Mr. Wylde.

THE gentlemen above mentioned* called this morning.

They said they represented five-sixths of the Opobo trade, and that Ja Ja was ruining them.

They had come purposely from Liverpool to represent that nothing short of the deportation of Ja Ja would produce any lasting effect, and that the example of defiance of Consular authority that was set by that Chief was spreading to the other rivers.

I asked them to at once put their representation in writing, which they promised to do.

E. W. W.

August 23, 1887.

* Mr. Handemann Stuart, Mr. T. Stanley Rogerson, and Mr. Alfred S. Graves.

Minutes by Mr. Wyld, Sir Villiers Lister, and the Marquis of Salisbury.

The gentlemen mentioned in my Minute of this morning have brought the annexed letter.*

I took the opportunity of questioning them as to the Opobo trade.

They answered that about 7,000 tons of palm oil were yearly exported, valued at 140,000*l.* Also kernels valued at 30,000*l.*

India-rubber, cocoa, and materials for dyes were also exported, and the latter trade would largely increase.

Goods, chiefly cloth, calico, hardware, &c., to the value of 140,000*l.* were imported.

I then asked if they might be taken to represent the general opinion of the Liverpool trade, and they replied that if Lord Salisbury desired, a deputation of the Liverpool Members would wait upon his Lordship to urge some decisive step with regard to Ja Ja.

E. W. W.

August 23, 1887.

Lord Salisbury would probably prefer to deport Ja Ja.

T. V. L.

On the whole, I should prefer to deport the deputation.

S.

No. 109.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received August 24.)

Sir,

Admiralty, August 20, 1887.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the perusal of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter addressed by the Chairman of the Court of Commerce at Opobo, dated the 1st July last, to the Captain of Her Majesty's ship "Royalist," together with a copy of that officer's reply thereto, respecting the hostility shown by King Ja Ja towards any attempt to open up trade with the interior.

I am, &c.

(Signed) R. D. AWDRY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 109.

Court of Commerce, Opobo, to Captain Hand.

Dear Sir,

Opobo, July 1, 1887.

ACTING on letters from Her Britannic Majesty's Secretaries of State to King Ja Ja, granting us protection and also the tribes of the interior against him in our endeavours to open up trade in the interior, we have got out launches, barges, houses, and other material for this purpose.

We have been up and seen the interior tribes, and they are willing to open up trade with us. After two or three visits to their towns they informed us that we must not come again, that Ja Ja had sent up word telling them that if they held any communication with white men he would come up with his people and kill them. They are in a great state of terror, and we can render them no help or assistance, and most earnestly entreat you to come or send round a gun-boat for their and our protection, as at present relations with Ja Ja are very strained, and not only a very heavy loss being sustained by merchants interested, but a great danger that loss of life may occur.

On the 22nd June we cabled the African Association, Liverpool, as follows:—

"Ja Ja threatens fight Eboe people if they trade with Europeans. Urge Foreign Office wire Consul and gun-boat come at once. Eboe markets closed; meantime trade stopped."

On the 24th June the Association wired as follows:—

"Government wired Friday, ordering Johnston proceed Opobo instantly."

A deputation from this Court left this river for Old Calabar on the 28th June to urge Mr. Johnston the necessity of coming round at once.

* See No. 107.

On arriving there they found at once Mr. Johnston had gone to Mondole, and as there was no chance of getting back if they had gone there, they wrote a letter to him (copy inclosed) and returned back.

Hearing that you were either at Bonny or would be shortly, it was decided that this letter be sent you, asking you if you would come to our assistance, and finding some means of getting Mr. Johnston round here, as he will have no chance of doing so by mail-steamers for another month at least.

If some steps are not taken at once to stop King Ja Ja's high-handed proceedings, which are being carried on in open defiance of orders to him from Her Britannic Majesty's Government, it will mean our having to abandon the opening up of the interior, and will mean a very serious loss to us.

We are, &c.
(For the Members),
(Signed) SAML. B. HALL, *Chairman.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 109.

Captain Hand to the Chairman of the Court of Commerce, Opobo.

Sir, "Royalist," at Bonny River, July 6, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 1st instant on behalf of the members of the Court of Commerce, and to inform you that, finding Mr. Johnston had not taken a passage to Opobo in the steam-ship "Akassa," I dispatched the "Alecto" yesterday to Mondole to convey him to Opobo.

I must urge on you the necessity to abstain from giving cause for any hostile act on the part of King Ja Ja, and, following this advice, I cannot consider your lives or property can be in any way endangered.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. W. HAND.

No. 110.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received August 24.)

Sir, Admiralty, August 20, 1887.

I AM commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter from the Captain of Her Majesty's ship "Royalist," dated the 9th July last, reporting his proceedings at various places on the West Coast of Africa.

A similar letter has been sent to the Colonial Office.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. D. AWDRY.

Inclosure in No. 110.

Captain Hand to Rear-Admiral Sir W. Hunt-Grubbe.

Sir, "Royalist," at River Bonny, July 9, 1887.

IN continuation of my letter of the 27th June, 1887, I have the honour to report that I left Lagos in Her Majesty's ship "Royalist," with "Alecto" in company, on the 27th ultimo, and arrived and anchored off Breaker Island, River Bonny, on the 30th. I proceeded the same evening in the "Alecto" to visit Akassa and Brass, but was unable to enter the River Nun on account of the high sea on the bar, and returned on the 3rd instant.

2. I endeavoured on my first arrival on the 30th ultimo to find an anchorage in smooth water to the north of Breaker Island for transhipping the "Alecto's" funnels, and I avoided Bonny on account of its unhealthiness, having some cases of fever on board, but as the water shoaled suddenly and unexpectedly, I was obliged to return and anchor in main stream. The navigating officer is making a rough survey of the channel, which has evidently shifted.

3. The new funnels have been transferred to "Alecto," and I hope to have one

fitted this week. In consequence of the surveying officer's Report on the old funnels, I have ordered them to be thrown overboard in deep water.

4. I have dispatched the "Alecto" to Mondole Island for Mr. Johnston, Vice-Consul, to convey him to Opobo. I inclose a letter from some of the traders in that river complaining of King Ja Ja's behaviour, and my reply.

5. As in consequence of the unsettled state of affairs in the Lagos Colony, and also at Opobo, it is possible the "Royalist" may be detained for some little time in the Bights, I telegraphed to the "Acorn" to join me here, with provisions for the squadron, and should it be still in accordance with your wishes when that vessel's services can be spared, I will send her to the Cape.

6. For the reasons stated in above paragraph I telegraphed my arrival here to the Admiralty, and shall for the present remain at this anchorage.

7. I have ordered the "Icarus" to carry out the Admiralty orders with regard to visiting Tabou, having previously ordered Commander Annesley to consult with the Governor of Sierra Leone on the same subject.

8. During my stay at Brass I was told by a good authority that the Brass Chiefs were actually meditating an attack on Akassa, after the Patani massacre last November. I mention this as I conjectured it before. I proceeded up the Niger last December, and it was mainly owing to the attitude of the Brass Chiefs that I embarked on the expedition.

9. From the steam-ship "Vlandesen," which left the Congo on the 13th ultimo, I learnt that Mr. Stanley was making good progress, had advanced beyond the falls, and had hoisted the American flag.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. W. HAND.

No. 111.

Mr. Royden, M.P., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 25.)

*The Liverpool Office, 3, Storey's Gate, St. James' Park,
Westminster, August 25, 1887.*

My Lord,

I UNDERSTAND that the African Association, representing nearly the whole of the trade, have brought to your Lordship's notice the very serious interference on the part of a Chief called Ja Ja with the trade on the River Opobo and the surrounding district, notwithstanding his repeated promises not to interfere, acting in defiance of the authority of Her Majesty's Consul. I need hardly point out to your Lordship the importance of the African trade, and especially so to the city of Liverpool. As one of the Representatives of that city, I would venture to impress upon your Lordship the great necessity of dealing very promptly with this matter by removing Ja Ja from Opobo. This would have the effect of supporting the authority of Her Majesty's Consul, and at the same time be a salutary check upon other Chiefs on the coast. If your Lordship wishes, my colleagues and myself will be happy to wait upon you with a deputation to more fully explain their views upon this question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. B. ROYDEN.

No. 112.

Foreign Office to Messrs. A. Miller, Brother, and Co.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, August 25, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, requesting that his Lordship will grant an interview to two native Chiefs of Opobo, who have been sent to this country by Ja Ja, and to your Opobo representative, Mr. David Farquhar, in order that the state of affairs at the above-mentioned place may be laid before his Lordship, and certain representations made with respect to recent Consular action there. Your letter further goes on to state that advices have reached your firm to the effect that Acting Consul Johnston has stopped the European trade in that district and is interfering with the business carried on by Ja Ja; and you add that, pending a communication with this Department, you have

cabled to your representative at Opobo to continue trading in spite of the Acting Consul's suspension of such operations.

In reply, I am to state to you, with regard to the first portion of your letter, that Lord Salisbury is unable to appoint an interview with Ja Ja's Representatives and Mr. Farquhar until their case has been fully explained in writing to his Lordship; and with respect to the concluding part of your communication, his Lordship is quite unable to approve of the action taken by you in instructing your agent at Opobo to act in opposition to the Consular mandate, and that the responsibility for any consequences which may result from that action must lie with you.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 113.

Question asked in the House of Commons, August 26, 1887.

Mr. W. F. Lawrence,—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether it is a fact that several English firms have equipped steam-launches for the purpose of trading with the producing markets direct, in competition to the middlemen of the Opobo River, under promise of protection from Her Majesty's Consul for the Bights of Benin and Biafra:

And whether, in the event of such protection being given, it will also be extended to the natives of Bonny, who are anxious to trade in the same markets.

Answer.

With regard to the first portion of the question, Her Majesty's Government are aware that trade in the Opobo River has for some time past been in an unsettled state, and the matter is engaging their serious attention. Certain traders have invoked Consular assistance, but to what extent that has been rendered is not at present known.

With respect to the second paragraph, without particularizing any Chief or party, the object will be to render trade unrestricted in all persons white or black.

No. 114.

Memorandum by Admiral Sir A. Hood.

THE nearest vessel to Bonny is the "Icarus," at Elmina, distance about 750 miles, within telegraphic communication.

The disagreement with Ja Ja has been going on for years, and Admiral Richards, when Commander-in-chief at the Cape, was strongly in favour of Ja Ja.

If the Government should decide upon seizing Ja Ja and deporting him, the work of seizure should certainly not be left to the navy. Ja Ja would probably either resist or retreat inland; in the latter case, he certainly would not be followed by an armed party from one of Her Majesty's ships; and in the former case, it would, in my opinion, be very undesirable to land a party of armed seamen in such an unhealthy climate to operate against Ja Ja.

If force is to be used, some of the West Indian troops should be used, and the only service which it appears to me could be expected from the navy is, if it should really be considered absolutely necessary to deport Ja Ja, that he should be delivered on board one of Her Majesty's vessels and conveyed to the place to which it may be decided to deport him.

(Signed) A. W. A. HOOD.

August 26, 1887.

Memorandum by Consul Hewett respecting Ja Ja's action in opposing the access of Europeans to Native Markets; Reasons for his Deportation, &c.

BY the Treaty of the 4th January, 1873, Ja Ja was recognized as King of Opobo by Her Majesty's Government. The markets to which the Europeans seek access are not in Opobo territory, but Ja Ja's influence there is paramount, because hitherto the natives there have had to rely on him and his Chiefs for the goods with which they traded with the natives beyond them.

Last year Ja Ja was informed by Lord Rosebery, in a letter dated the 16th June, that "Her Majesty, the Queen, in assuming the Protectorate of the territories in the Gulf of Guinea, had in view as a principal object the promotion of the welfare of the natives of all those territories taken as a whole by insuring the peaceful development of trade, and by facilitating their intercourse with Europeans." Ja Ja's recent action is directly opposed to carrying out the object here named. In the same letter he was told, "It is not to be permitted that any Chief, who may happen to occupy a territory on the coast, should obstruct this policy in order to benefit himself." This was a clear warning against the use of any restrictive measures, such as he is reported to have lately taken to prevent Europeans trading at the markets. This warning he has totally disregarded. Ja Ja was also reminded that he was charged with barring the access of Europeans to markets outside his territories; this, I apprehend, is what he has continued to do, and will go on doing, "to defeat the aim of the Protectorate," unless some steps are taken to put a stop to him. His example, if he is left unpunished, will very soon be followed by the Chiefs in the other rivers, and a trade which amounts, I believe, to over 1,000,000*l.* per annum will be wrested from our traders, and left as a monopoly in the hands of the natives.

No native Chief in my district has so much power in his own territory, or wields so much influence among other tribes, as Ja Ja does. Not only would trade be benefited by his being deported, but the Chiefs in the other rivers would be much more easily managed, as they would be deprived of his bad advice, and Her Majesty's Government would certainly be saved a great deal of trouble and correspondence.

Considering the clear and distinct statement in Lord Rosebery's letter as to the objects of the Protectorate, and the explanation I gave Ja Ja of that part of the letter referring to his placing no obstructions in the way of the Europeans going up to the markets, I fail to find any reason why further forbearance should be shown to this Chief.

Messrs. Miller's letter states that Ja Ja has sent a deputation to represent to Lord Salisbury the state of matters at Opobo, and his and his people's view in regard to the Consular action during the last two years. I cannot see that either the state of matters or the Consular action can in any degree mitigate Ja Ja's offence in acting in direct opposition to Lord Rosebery's letter, nor can they show any reason why immediate steps should not be taken against Ja Ja. Every day's delay will tell against the Consular authorities. And the sooner a punishment, provided it be a severe one, is inflicted on Ja Ja, the greater will be the effect on the Chiefs throughout my district. Of one thing I am certain: if Ja Ja is allowed to remain at Opobo, the life of no European will be safe who goes up-country, and possibly the lives and property of Europeans trading at Opobo will be in jeopardy.

I apprehend there will be no difficulty or danger in getting hold of Ja Ja. Two gun-boats should be sent to Opobo, and Ja Ja and his Chiefs should be summoned to attend the Acting Consul on board one of them, who will read out and then deliver to Ja Ja Lord Salisbury's letter or telegram (if the latter, a copy should be given Ja Ja) announcing the steps which Her Majesty's Government have ordered to be taken to punish him. I think it important that, besides the European traders, some influential Chiefs from the markets should be present at the meeting, in order that they may carry back a correct version of the proceedings, to assure their people that Ja Ja has been taken out of the country, and that he went away as a prisoner on board one of "the Queen's war-canoes."

It is very essential that nothing be allowed to leak out as to the steps Her Majesty's Government intend taking, for if Ja Ja gets an inkling of what is intended to be done he will be off to the markets, and probably find some excuse to go beyond them and remain away. If Ja Ja should plead that he cannot attend on account of sickness, a peremptory order, sent with a sick-bay stretcher, some blue-jackets, and a file of marines in charge of an officer, will facilitate matters, and save further trouble, I think.

I do not imagine that the Opobo people will have the temerity to oppose force to the gun-boats, but it would be as well to inspire them with fear, and show them that all due preparations have been made for action; the Chiefs will take the hint.

Another meeting should be held after Ja Ja's departure, when the Acting Consul should inform the Chiefs of the scheme of government proposed for Opobo, and it would be expedient, I think, if he distinctly stated, not only at Opobo, but in the other rivers also, that the markets are henceforth open alike to all traders, whether white or black.

(Signed) EDWARD HYDE HEWETT.

London, August 27, 1887.

Minutes by Mr. Wylde and Sir Villiers Lister.

The annexed Memorandum has been drawn up by Consul Hewett with regard to the reasons which render the deportation of Ja Ja desirable, and the steps that he advocates for carrying out the operation.

It should be borne in mind that, in dealing with this Chief, Her Majesty's Government disturb no national sentiment.

Ja Ja is not descended from a race of Kings, or from a long line of ancestors settled at Opobo; the people over whom he rules (about 4,000) are bound to him by no ties of hereditary affection or devotion.

Originally a slave from Ibo, he was brought to Bonny. There he obtained a certain influence, and from thence he was driven by Oko Jumbo. After certain vicissitudes, he settled about sixteen years ago at Opobo.

It is probable that, on his removal, his influence, which is based on a superficial structure, would at once decay.

On the other hand, if his disregard of Lord Rosebery's instructions of the 16th June, 1886, is condoned, every petty Chief from Benin River to Old Calabar will follow the example Ja Ja has set, and the Protectorate will become a continual source of trouble and heavy extra expense.

E. W. W.

August 27, 1887.

The particular mode of entrapping and deporting Ja Ja might be left to the Senior Naval Officer, but Consul Hewett has much experience in such matters.

T. V. L.

No. 116.

Mr. D. Farquhar, Jun., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 29.)

My Lord,

London, August 27, 1887.

I HAVE read over the letter of this date* which the Representatives of Ja Ja, from Opobo, are sending to your Lordship, and I desire to state that I have been intimately acquainted with the course of events in Opobo during the past nine years, and can conscientiously state that the representations made therein give, so far as I am aware, a true statement of the facts.

In my opinion, the whole of the present troubles have been brought about by the agents of certain European firms in Opobo seeking to coerce Ja Ja and his people to accept smaller payments for their produce than I, as agent for Messrs. Miller, Brothers, was able to make.

Should your Lordship favour Ja Ja's deputation with an interview, I shall be glad to have your consent to attend.

I am, &c.

(Signed) D. FARQUHAR, Jun.

No. 117.

Messrs. Alex. Miller, Brother, and Co., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 29.)

May it please your Lordship,

55, Waterloo Street, Glasgow, August 27, 1887.

WE have received your Lordship's letter of the 25th instant, in reply to ours of the 19th instant, with reference to affairs at Opobo, West Coast of Africa, and the deputation which has arrived in this country from that place. We have requested the Representa-

* See No. 120.

tives to send your Lordship, without delay, a written statement of their case, which we trust will receive favourable and early consideration.

We have been favoured with a perusal of the statement of their case prepared by them, which, in our opinion, states briefly the principal subjects which have created ill-feeling. So far as we know, it is a correct statement of their case.

Our firm and Mr. Charles Di Cardi were the first English traders in Opobo, and it is a fact that we made presents, as "shake-hands," to Ja Ja, as well as to the leading native traders, from time to time, and varying in value according as the trade done through them was more or less profitable; and we feel sure that none of those disputes would ever have been heard of had it not been that certain English traders did not succeed in forcing Ja Ja and his people to accept from them lower prices for their produce than others could afford to pay.

Mr. Charles Di Cardi has sent us to-day a letter in which he states this custom prevailed in Bonny from 1862, and also in Opobo during the whole time he traded there.

We are glad to be able to state that our representative at Opobo did not resume trade after the Consul had stopped it; and as the stoppage entails very serious loss, we venture to hope that the Opobo matters will receive your Lordship's early consideration.

We have, &c.

(Signed) ALEX. MILLER, BROTHER, AND Co.

No. 118.

Memorandum by the Marquis of Salisbury.

Complaints against Ja Ja.

I GATHER from these papers that Ja Ja is a Sovereign holding a strip of coast near Bonny, and a river called Opobo, which gives access to further creeks and lands in the interior. With respect to this territory of Opobo there is no complaint, but higher up the river is a place called Ahombele, with which the European merchants have never traded yet, but with which they desire to trade. An attempt on their part to open trade with this place was met with a refusal by the King of it, who stated that it was in the dominion of Ja Ja, who had forbidden any intercourse with Europeans. A number of Ja Ja's soldiers, armed with rifles, were seen in the place. Some of the apparently subordinate Chiefs intimated to the merchants that nothing but Ja Ja's prohibition prevented them from trading.

On this it is recommended that two gun-boats should be sent to Opobo, that the Captain of one of them, carefully concealing his intention, should summon a meeting of Ja Ja and other Chiefs on board his vessel, and then, when he has got him there, should carry him off to sea and deposit him in some place which is not named. It is suggested that the other gun-boat should remain, in order to see that due access is given by the people of Ahombele to the merchants who wish to trade there.

I am unable, from the papers before me, to see what cause of complaint we have against Ja Ja. If we are to proceed according to any sort of rules of international right, he is evidently the *de facto* Sovereign or Suzerain of this place Ahombele, and prohibition to trade with Europeans is a matter perfectly within his discretion. It is said that he is contravening the stipulations of a Treaty made in 1873. I can find no provision of that Treaty which is contravened by the action that he has taken in this instance. It is said that he is acting against orders that were transmitted to him in the despatch of Lord Rosebery's of last year. This would hardly be a sufficient ground of action, unless we are satisfied that the orders sent were such as this country is entitled to carry out by force. But I cannot see that he has resisted the directions given in Lord Rosebery's despatch. That despatch is directed against the practice of using the position at the mouth of a river to intercept the trade going up through that river to the interior. If this had been Ja Ja's proceeding, our course would have been very clear. He could not be allowed to stop up a natural highway. But this is a very different thing from prohibiting access to territories which are confessedly under his control.

I cannot at present see that we have any cause of war against Ja Ja.

The course of action which is proposed by Consul Hewett would be open to great exception, even if we had a cause of war against this Chief. To invite a Chief on board your ship, carefully concealing the fact that you have any designs against his person, and then, when he has put himself in your power, to carry him away, is hardly legitimate

warfare, even if we had a right to go to war. It is called "deporting" in the papers, but I think that this is a euphemism. In other places it would be called kidnapping.

I append a letter from Admiral Hood, the First Sea Lord of the Admiralty, showing that, if necessity or cause should arise for taking hostile measures, they would be attended with some difficulty, and probably some expense. The climate would practically forbid the employment of any but black troops for the purpose. But I see no ground for taking hostile action, so far as my present information goes. I think it would be better to request the Admiralty to send a gun-boat there, with instructions to remonstrate with Ja Ja and obtain such a relaxation of his restrictions as can be done by negotiation. The Commander should, however, unless under some unforeseen necessity, be precluded from taking any aggressive action without further orders.

S.

Foreign Office, August 29, 1887.

No. 119.

Petition.—(Received August 31.)

Opobo Town, July 20, 1887.

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

The humble Petition of King, Chiefs, and people of Opobo Town,

Sheweth:

THAT your petitioners having signed Treaty with your Majesty as Protectorate, prior to which we were made to understand that the principal object of the said Treaty being drawn, and requested us to sign, was simply to prevent the Germans and other foreign European Powers from interfering with the affairs of our country, as it has been done in Cameroons:

We, on consideration, were willing to sign the Treaty, owing that your Majesty having from time past protected us by your concern in the peace of our country. If your Majesty's intention is to permit freedom of trade to the European merchants, to trade direct in our markets, we, your petitioners, King, Chiefs, and people of Opobo Town, beg and entreat your Majesty, as an act of favour, to withdraw such intentions and grant to us the privilege and benefit of our markets.

We are willing to trade with the five European houses in our river as usual, provided the agents representing these houses will put away their warlike characters and assume that as traders, and there will be no partiality, but uniformity of trade may hence exist among the whole traders.

So far as trade is concerned in the whole African countries, if not in Europe, they are middlemen through whose agencies produce and commodities are conveyed from hand to hand.

Our fathers having inhabited portion of lands that have no soil suitable for cultivation, the same they left to us, their principal employment which they engaged themselves in for the support of their families being traffic in slavery; the same having been abolished by your Majesty, palm-oil trade became substitute, and to encourage our interior people to direct their attention to the traffic of this produce, our fathers spent so much on these markets, and in our time we have also spent over 10,000*l.* to encourage people in our interior to continue its trade.

These interior people do not manufacture these produce themselves, but they, as middlemen, buy from others, as we do from them; and if your Majesty permit the European merchants to enter into these markets to trade in them, it will be an injury and starvation to us, and will cause us a serious inconvenience.

We are sure of your Majesty's good intentions towards us, but if your Majesty have the least knowledge of the actions of these Europeans sent out by the merchants towards us poor niggers, as they generally call us, even in meetings held by some of your officials, your Majesty will actually see and feel for us.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Majesty will be graciously pleased to grant to us our markets, and once again pray for withdrawal of that permission granted to the merchants, that they may content in buying its produce from us.

The parties who present this Petition are men of considerable standing in my country, and leave it at great inconvenience to the country and themselves. Therefore it

is begged of you that they have an interview at as early a date as is consistent with your Majesty's Government's convenience.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(Signed)

JA JA, *King of Opobo.*
(And 47 Chiefs.)

No. 120.

King Ja Ja's Deputation to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 31.)

35, Harley Street, Cavendish Square,
August 27, 1887.

May it please your Lordship,

WE, the Undersigned, Cookey Gam, Shue Peterside, and Albert Ja Ja, Chiefs of Opobo, and Sunday Ja Ja, son of King Ja Ja of Opobo, have been commissioned by our King and Chiefs in Council to proceed to England to lay before your Lordship a statement of events which have taken place there during the past few years, and to point out to your Lordship how these events, together with the action, during that time, of Her Majesty's Consul, have, in our view, operated injuriously to the welfare of our country and people, and with hardship—by the imposition of fines on King Ja Ja.

We would respectfully call your Lordship's attention to the various letters addressed to the Foreign Office which have been forwarded during those years, and more especially to King Ja Ja's letter dated the 5th May, 1877, addressed to your Lordship, which touches upon most of the matters which have caused serious trouble to our King and country during the past years.

We believe that the perusal by your Lordship of the various letters and documents will show conclusively that the Treaty of Protectorate, while containing undisputed agreements, did not give away the rights of King Ja Ja, ceded to him by the IIIrd Clause in the Treaty of the 4th January, 1873, and that in the Treaty of the 19th December, 1884, Article VI, which virtually would have abrogated the said IIIrd Clause of the Treaty of the 4th January, 1873, was deleted, and so any action founded on the assumption that Article VI is a part of the existing Treaty is not, in our view, justifiable, nor should King Ja Ja be considered as having broken the Treaty in so far as that Clause is concerned.

We will put into your Lordship's hands the letter of Consul Hewett of the 1st July, 1884, to King Ja Ja, from which your Lordship will note that Article VI in the Treaty of Protectorate was made inoperative, not only by the deletion of the said VIth Clause, but had also been excluded in the Preliminary Treaty through the said letter; and, further, we have to state that without such concessions our King and Chiefs would not have signed either the Preliminary Treaty or the Treaty of Protectorate.

We hope to convince your Lordship that, although in our view the VIth Clause of the Treaty of Protectorate is inoperative, neither Ja Ja, nor any of our people, have in any way, either by advice or instigation, been the means of provoking quarrels or hindering free trade between Europeans and the natives of the interior. We always hoped that Her Majesty's Consul would have considered our statements favourably, and relieved us of all blame of having done so, and it is because the Consul has not done so that we have been sent to represent our condition to your Lordship.

King Ja Ja does not rest satisfied with the decision of Consul Hewett of the 16th March, 1886, by which he was ordered to pay, and has paid, the value of 300 puncheons of palm-oil to certain parties. He has to complain that the Consul was guided in his decisions by the advice and evidence of the parties to whom this payment was made, and that the Consul refused to listen to a full statement of the case which King Ja Ja and his Chiefs wished to make, and also ignored the evidence of the agent of Messrs. Miller, Brothers, who, along with Mr. C. De Cardi, were the first, and for many years the only, European traders in Opobo.

We hope to prove to your Lordship that the sums paid from time to time to King Ja Ja as "shake-hands" were not levied as blackmail, nor as a payment exacted, but were gratuitous presents given to King Ja Ja by traders on their arrival, to secure a share of his trade in the same manner as similar payments, though of less value, were made to many of the leading Chiefs with the same object. Your Lordship will doubtless place some weight on the evidence of Messrs. Miller, Brothers, and Mr. C. De Cardi, who confirm this view of the case.

Referring to your Lordship's letter of the 14th March, 1877, to King Ja Ja, we are authorized to express the satisfaction with which he received the intimation that the fine of 30 puncheons of palm-oil was to be returned; but we have to state that, at the date of our leaving Opobo, Her Majesty's Consul had not refunded that amount. And, further, that as regards "comey" and direct trading with England in competition with English traders, the "comey" so levied did not exceed 2s. 6d. per ton, and is disbursed in payments made for keeping the roads to the markets open, for settling disputes, and otherwise in helping trade. It is true that a very small quantity of produce is sent into England direct to merchants who supply special articles which the English traders in Opobo cannot supply so favourably, but the whole volume of such trade is so very small that it need not be an obstacle to the settlement of present disputes.

We fear that certain Europeans in Opobo have, by their interference with our markets, and by false representations to Her Majesty's Government, have brought upon us the displeasure of Her Majesty's Government; and we have been sent as Representatives, that your Lordship may have the opportunity of hearing our statements of our case, and that if a satisfactory arrangement can be come to, our King may be able to rule the country so that there may be peace and quietness. Our King also feels that attempts have been made to attach blame to him for acts of wrongdoing committed by people beyond his control or jurisdiction.

We herewith inclose a Memorial to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, signed by the King and Chiefs in our country, craving Her Majesty's interest and sympathy in the position in which we would be placed in the event of our being deprived of the trade on which our country is wholly dependent.

We have purposely refrained from stating to your Lordship many things that have given us trouble and annoyance, which, if opportunity is afforded us, we will be glad to explain.

We inclose copy of Consul Hewett's letter of the 1st July, 1884, referred to in this letter.

We have, &c.
(Signed) COOKEY GAM.
SHUE PETERSIDE.
ALBERT JA JA.
SUNDAY JA JA.

Inclosure in No. 120.

Consul Hewett to King Ja Ja.

Dear Sir,

"Flirt," Opobo River, July 1, 1884.

I WRITE, as you requested, with reference to the word "protection," as used in the proposed Treaty, that the Queen does not want to take your country or your markets, but at the same time is anxious no other nation should take them. She undertakes to extend her gracious favour and protection, which will leave your country still under your government. She has no wish to disturb your rule, although she is anxious to see your country get up as well as the countries of the other tribes with whom her people have been for so long trading.

Faithfully yours,
(Signed) EDWARD HYDE HEWETT.

No. 121.

Acting Consul Johnston to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 11. Africa.)

My Lord,

Opobo River, July 28, 1887.

AS I have been informed by King Ja Ja of Opobo that he has quite recently dispatched to England a Mission, consisting of one or more of his sons and of several Chiefs, for the purpose of waiting on your Lordship and of representing Ja Ja's views respecting the recent trade disputes, I think it advisable to forward, for your Lordship's information, a few hasty notes which may serve to elucidate the main questions now debated with some acrimony by Ja Ja and all the British firms (with one exception) trading on the Opobo River.

Summoned here a short while since by your Lordship's telegram, and also by the urgent appeals of the Opobo merchants, I have endeavoured to fully investigate the charges and complaints brought against Ja Ja by the agents of these trading firms, which, encouraged by the letter of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of July 1886, and also by the advice and support afforded to them by Mr. Consul Hewett, had determined to avert a threatened collapse of trade on the coast by pushing their commercial enterprise to the markets of the interior.

At a large meeting held to-day, at which Ja Ja and all his Chiefs (save those now journeying to England) and every white man in the river were present, Ja Ja admitted that he had at different times—in some cases years, in others months—before the movement of the British traders to the markets, caused the people of the interior, Ibos and Kwos, to “chop ju-ju” (swear a solemn oath) that they would trade exclusively and solely with him and his people. He also admitted that, in spite of the Protectorate Treaty, and of divers admonitions from Her Majesty's Secretaries of State for Foreign Affairs and from Her Majesty's Consuls, he had not sent to “break” the “ju-ju,” and thus, by releasing the people from their oaths, to permit them to trade with all comers.

This was such an important admission that all the other matters about the non-payment of fines and the alleged threats are comparatively trifling. I therefore informed Ja Ja that if he would agree to two conditions I would consider the “palaver” at an end, would not call the Senior Naval Officer of the division to the river, and would ask permission from your Lordship to repay to him the large fine conditionally remitted by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. These two conditions were:—

1. Ja Ja is to sign an Agreement that if any one of his people is proved to have molested British subjects trading at the markets, or to have placed obstacles in the way of free trade at the said markets, this person is, on conviction before the Consul, to be severely punished, and Ja Ja to be responsible for the payment of his fine.

2. Ja Ja is to send, not later than (the 2nd August), a big Chief (such as Ogolo) to accompany Acting Consul Johnston to the markets; and the big Chief is there, in Acting Consul Johnston's presence and in Ja Ja's name, to “break” the “ju-ju” which prevents the people of the interior from trading with the white men, and to announce to the Chiefs and peoples Ja Ja's adherence to the principle of free trade.

I feel sure that your Lordship will not consider these conditions unreasonable, nor inconsistent with the many admonitions Ja Ja has received at different times from Her Majesty's Secretaries of State for Foreign Affairs and from Mr. Consul Hewett. I trust that, on the arrival of Captain Hand in the river on board Her Majesty's ship “Alecto,” with Her Majesty's ship “Goshawk” in attendance, Ja Ja will yield to my insistence and agree to my terms.

It is impossible to avoid feeling that the five principal firms trading on this river have a very large call on the sympathy and assistance of the British Government. Relying on the assurances of protection and support made to them at different times by competent authorities in the Government, they have gone to a great expense to adopt a line of policy which has received the consistent support of Mr. Consul Hewett, and which has met with your Lordship's approval. Now that they are about to reap the long-awaited-for and sadly-needed profits of their praiseworthy enterprise, their trade is stopped by the machinations of one of the most grasping, unscrupulous, and overbearing of mushroom Kings who ever attempted to throttle the growing commerce of white men with the rich interior. Ja Ja has made the natives of the trading-markets swear—what to them is the most solemn oath—that they will not trade with any but his own people. This oath he holds over them *in terrorem*, and there is little doubt, from the sworn evidence put before me, that he has threatened the people of the interior with death if they are false to their swearing.

Should Ja Ja agree to my conditions, the difficulty will be at an end. But if he continues to resist them, I must respectfully ask your Lordship for means of properly and effectually supporting British authority.

I am now starting on a preliminary investigation of the markets, and, if Ja Ja comes to terms, I shall conclude Treaties in the name of Her Majesty the Queen with the important and friendly Chiefs of the interior.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON,

Minutes by Mr. Wylde and Sir Villers Lister.

Messrs. Miller, Brother, and Co., August 27; Mr. Farquhar, August 27; Ja Ja Petition, July 20; Ja Ja's Deputation, August 27; Acting Consul Johnston, No. 11, July 28, 1887.*

These letters reopen the Ja Ja discussion, which had been brought up by Lord Salisbury's Memorandum of the 29th ultimo. I will endeavour to deal with it briefly from a Departmental point of view. The last time it was put before Lord Salisbury, Consul Hewett's views as to the means of deporting Ja Ja were mixed with the Departmental case. Although the Department are of opinion that the removal of Ja Ja would be most beneficial to English trade and the security of the coast, they by no means indorse the plan proposed by Consul Hewett for removing him, which would certainly beget all the evils foreshadowed in Lord Salisbury's Memorandum.

Taking the case for Ja Ja first, as set forth in the communications from Miller, Brother, Mr. Farquhar, Ja Ja himself and his deputation:—

Ja Ja's Petition (10th July), which has been brought over by the Deputation, is, looking at it from any point of view an unprejudiced person may do, nothing more or less than a prayer that Her Majesty's Government will forbid *free* trade, and give him a monopoly of the markets. He terms them "his markets," but they are not on his territory, and no more, as a matter of fact, his, than a London dealer could style certain provincial markets his because he had exclusively dealt in them for the last decade.

The deputation's letter goes further. It bears evident trace of having been drawn up under the supervision of Messrs. Miller, who are Ja Ja's agents in this country, and the only English firm that he deals with at Opobo. It is obviously to the interest of Messrs. Miller and Ja Ja to see things in the same light.

Beginning with references to the Treaties which have at different times been concluded with Ja Ja, it then deals with various correspondence that has passed between this Office and that Ruler. But the burden of the whole story is a complaint against the Consul. It is chiefly a general complaint, but, in one instance, is specific. That case is the remission of a fine of 30 puncheons of oil, which has not been carried out. Carrying out an understanding is of some importance at Opobo, and Hewett should be asked to explain this. I observe that, in one portion of the letter, it is denied that Ja Ja ever interfered with free trade, but, in face of his own Petition, the general outcry, and the Consular Reports, that statement is probably inaccurate. The communication goes on to touch on other matters, chiefly relating to Consular shortcomings—or alleged shortcomings—and reserves other points for the interview.

I do not think that any great stress need be laid on the communications from Messrs. Miller and Mr. Farquhar, their agent. They necessarily support Ja Ja, and the only point worthy of note is that they express satisfaction that their agent, after all, did not interfere with Vice-Consul Johnston's fiat.

Vice-Consul Johnston's despatch has been received this morning, and it is of much importance, as showing what Ja Ja really does, and what he does not do. Johnston is not at all a man to slavishly follow or adopt Consul Hewett's views, and his opinion of Ja Ja may be considered as an unbiassed one. I would most respectfully draw attention to a passage that I have marked in red in Lord Salisbury's Memorandum, and submit that Ja Ja is doing, and has for some time past been doing, the exact acts which are therein held to be so reprehensible. He, situated at the mouth of the creeks, is stopping a river highway over which he possesses no lawful control, and is influencing markets situated beyond his territory, to the detriment of British trade.

It is no wish of the Department to be unfair on a Chief who is weak in comparison with the powers against whom he is striving, but there is undoubted grounds for apprehension that, if something is not done with Ja Ja, the commercial outcry will be louder than if we had dealt with him. If nothing else takes place, the present incident shows that the services of our third Consul are wanted on the Coast.

E. W. W.

September 1, 1887.

The deputation, I conclude, should now be received, and Vice-Consul Johnston approved by telegram.

E. W. W.

* Nos 116, 117, 119 120, and 121.

No. 121*.

Natives of Old Calabar to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

[Printed literally.]

Duke Town, Old Calabar, July 19, 1887.

To the Right Honourable the Marquis of Salisbury, K.G., &c., &c., &c.

The Memorial of the Undersigned, Prince Efiom John Eyamba, and other natives of Duke Town, Old Calabar,

Most respectfully sheweth:

THAT your memorialists most graciously submit to your Lordships the sorrows so deeply impressed in their minds daily concerning the barbarous treatment inflicted on the poor and weak members of their country and also on the poor slaves as well by those of powers the slaves are frequently suffered cruel death by their tyrant masters for no lawful act, and no one person to vindicate their cause, why, because they are slaves, this we see really that neither Treaties or any Agreement could put a final stop to, this long existing evil been practised in Old Calabar during this forty years. There are many Treaties and Agreement had been made by Her Majesty's Representatives and signed acknowledged by the King and Chiefs of this country for the prevention of this wicked practices but no observation taken to it they make a sham of it and cannot prevent them from carried out their mad career.

That your memorialists most humbly submit to your Lordship's kind considerations the grievance of these poor weak and helpless people of our country. We have no other prospect for their rescuement than to solicit your Lordships to see with us and with great sympathy to accede to our solicitation and see that Old Calabar be annexed to Great Britain. Without this we find no other way to abolish these barbarous character from our country. As a Prince and free man of the whole country, son of the late King Eyamba V of Old Calabar, now respectively crave your Lordship serious attention to comply with your memorialists for annexation of Old Calabar to Great Britain. Then and there the lives of these poor people are secure and they will have the enjoyment of freedom and civilization.

And that your memorialists with many others whose name are not herein subscribe yet jointly to our request and will be very much thankful should your Lordship vouchsafe for the annexation of this country for the safety of human lives but if not we see no requisite ground that your Lordships should send any officer such as Consular, who singly will not be able to visit all the neighbouring places in Old Calabar such as plantations and adjacent towns, where the most cruelties of human victims are perpetrated mercilessly.

That your memorialists in consideration on the quietness and freedom of the other places on the West Coast such as the Gold Coast &c. and the enjoyment they obtain through the ruling power of England. We also desire to possess the same privilege and that the whole of our country will enjoy tranquillity. Should your Lordship glance into all the letters from Old Calabar conveying reports and grievance to the Foreign Office, will no doubt move your Lordship's feelings to yield. And there is not an item in the Treaties which has not been violated, poison nuts is still administering in the country; twin mothers and twin children still prohibited notwithstanding the Treaties.

That your memorialists are ready without hesitation to see Her Majesty's ensign be hoisted in the country to announce freedom and peace. And we also crave for better church and school-house for the instruction of our children.

And your memorialists as in duty bound will ever pray.

(Signed)

EFIOM JOHN EYAMBA.

(And 12 others).

I quite agree.

We have the money for the Vice-Consul, and only want the man.

T. V. L.

No. 122.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received September 2.)

Sir,

Admiralty, August 31, 1887.

I AM commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the perusal of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the accompanying extracts from a letter, dated the 29th July, from Captain Hand, R.N., of Her Majesty's ship "Royalist," the Senior Officer on the West Coast of Africa, reporting proceedings on that coast.

I am to add that a similar letter has been addressed to the Colonial Office.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

R. D. AWDRY.

Inclosure in No. 122.

Captain Hand to Rear-Admiral Sir W. Hunt-Grubbe.

(Extract.)

"Royalist" at Fernando Po, July 29, 1887.

IN continuation of my letter of the 14th July, I have the honour to report that, having telegraphed to Her Majesty's ship "Acorn" to proceed to Bights with provisions for the squadron, and expecting that vessel about the 20th, I left Bonny River in Her Majesty's ship "Royalist" on the 16th instant for this place to complete with coal, and to be able to utilize the lighters for provisioning, and arrived on following day.

2. The "Icarus" is proceeding to take the "Acorn's" place at disposal of Governor of Gambia in accordance with telegraphic instructions from Admiralty, until relieved by "Rifleman," which latter ship will remain on north subdivision until her relief arrives. The "Goshawk" arrived here on the 26th with Mr. Johnston, Acting Consul, and sailed same day for Opobo, and she will, after the Ja Ja question is settled, convey the Acting Consul round his district.

3. His Excellency the Governor of Fernando Po, during my official visit, expressed his regret at having been unable to receive you when you arrived here in your flag-ship. He has given permission to erect the boat-shed, which is now nearly completed, and has asked his Government for permission to be granted for a permanent building to be constructed.

I forward you a letter from him on this subject. It will be necessary to obtain from the Spanish Government a written understanding with regard to the allotment of land for our use as a coaling-station, as the land in the vicinity is being occupied, and the agent has no knowledge of the limitations, nor is there any record in the Senior Officer's box, and the Acting Consul has very hazy notions whether there is any document in his possession bearing on the subject.

4. I have no remarks to offer with regard to this coaling depôt, as, being on foreign soil, it would be of no use in time of war, and the facilities for peace are ample; but I think, considering the high price paid for labour, the agent should be compelled to load a certain quantity per man per diem. At present the rate is at about 2½ tons; when the coal is on the beach, double that quantity might easily be put on board, and at all times it is insufficient. I have been obliged frequently to complain of the work done by the agent's hired labourers.

5. The Governor here informed me that the question of the territory about St. John was not yet settled. The Spanish Government have offered to sell it for a mere nominal sum (40,000 dollars), but the French decline to come to an agreement.

6. I interviewed the Acting Consul on the 26th, and was glad to hear that the difficulties in the Old Calabar had been peacefully settled. I was anxious to see him before he proceeded to Opobo, as he sent me a rather bellicose private communication; it was necessary, therefore, that I should discuss the position of affairs with him before he proceeded to threaten Ja Ja with hostile action. From what I already know of this question, there are other means of bringing Ja Ja to his Treaty obligations without having to resort to hostilities.

7. The proceedings of the "Acorn" are unaccountable, and I am obliged to send the "Alecto" to Bonny to find out that vessel's whereabouts, as I shall have to proceed to Loanda for provisions if she does not arrive soon, having had to provision the "Alecto," and also as this ship with the present number borne does not stow much more than two months' provisions.

No. 123.

Messrs. Miller, Brother, and Co. to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 5.)

May it please your Lordship, 55, Waterloo Street, Glasgow, September 3, 1887.

WE beg to refer your Lordship to our communications of the 19th and 27th August, and to your letter to us of the 25th August, and to call your Lordship's attention to the stoppage of our trade in Opobo by Consular mandate, which took effect on or about the 17th August.

We have not had any intimation, official or otherwise, of the Consul's intention to stop our trade, nor are we aware of any circumstance which has rendered his mandate necessary or justifiable.

We will be glad to be informed by what Ordinance the responsible power of stopping trade is vested in Her Majesty's Consul at Opobo, and whether his action was rendered necessary by hostilities against British subjects or otherwise.

The stoppage of our business at Opobo causes a loss to us of 50*l.* each day, and it appears to us unreasonable that a penalty of this amount should be inflicted on us in the absence of full information of the circumstances of the case.

If the Foreign Office is not already in possession of the grounds on which the Consul has acted, we would respectfully suggest that your Lordship should request full particulars by telegraph.

We have, &c.
(Signed) ALEX. MILLER, BROTHER, AND Co.

No. 124.

The Rio Bento Kernel Company to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 5.)

My Lord, 46, Tower Buildings, Liverpool, September 3, 1887.

ON the 15th April last Consul Hewett paid a visit to the Brass River, and he was then informed by our Representative that the natives had made a law imposing fines upon any one venturing to sell us produce of any kind; he made inquiries at a meeting of the Chiefs, and found that this was true. He then warned them that they had no right, and would not be allowed, to continue this, and that a Chief named Coco was perfectly right in not paying a fine inflicted for transgressing this law; but this has not in any way remedied the state of things which then prevailed, and matters are still in the same position.

We therefore pray that your Lordship will cause such instructions to be issued to Her Majesty's Consul as will put an end to this boycott, or give us protection in sending our steamer "Ouorra" to the producing markets.

We are, &c.
(The Rio Bento Kernel Company, Limited),
(Signed) G. A. MOORE AND Co., Managers.

No. 125.

Foreign Office to Mr. Royden, M.P.

Sir, Foreign Office, September 5, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th ultimo, relative to the action of King Ja Ja on the River Opobo; and I am to acquaint you, in reply, that the matter is engaging the serious attention of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 126.

Foreign Office to Consul Hewett.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 5, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you herewith a communication which has been addressed to his Lordship by Prince Efiom John Eyamba and other natives of Old Calabar,* praying to be taken under the protection of Her Majesty; and I am to direct you to return the accompanying paper to this Department with such observations as you may have to make on the subject of the Petition.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 127.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 6, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of the Admiralty letter of the 31st ultimo, inclosing extracts from a communication from Captain Hand, of Her Majesty's ship "Royalist."

In the 6th paragraph of these extracts Captain Hand writes as follows:—

"From what I already know of this question, there are other means of bringing Ja Ja to his Treaty obligations without having to resort to hostilities."

In laying this letter before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, I am to request you to be good enough to state to their Lordships that Lord Salisbury would be glad if Captain Hand could be called upon to furnish a Report as to what the "means" are to which he alludes in the paragraph quoted in this letter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 128.

Acting Consul Johnston to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 12. Africa.)

My Lord,

Opobo River, August 1, 1887.

I TAKE advantage of another mail which is just leaving for England to supply your Lordship with some further information respecting the affairs of Opobo.

Three days ago, whilst waiting for the arrival of the Senior Officer of Her Majesty's ships in the Bights division, I made a short expedition to some of the more important of the Opobo markets at which the British firms established at the mouth of this river are desirous of trading. I have the honour to inclose a rough Chart of the Opobo River which I have just made from my surveys.

The farthest and most important of the markets which I have visited was the large town or Settlement of Ohombela. This congeries of villages, as it really is, lies about a mile from the banks of a little stream which is an affluent of the Opobo River. At the landing-place there are a number of timber houses built on piles and standing over the water. These are mostly the trading stores of Ja Ja and the Opobo Chiefs. Leaving the beach and walking up a sandy road through fine herds of cattle, which were sauntering down to drink at the stream, we stopped to rest for a few minutes under a large shed. The ground here had been recently cleared, and I was informed that this site had first of all been given by a former Chief of Ohombela to the European traders as a place whereon to build their factories, but that Ja Ja had deposed the Chief (whose name was Baba), and had placed a creature of his own, Ekike Notsho, in his stead, insisting at the same time on the retractation of the gift. The white men protested, but the Ibos—the people of Ohombela belong to the great Ibo race—declared that although willing to have Europeans in their country they could do nothing to anger Ja Ja. Subsequently Ja Ja built the shed I have referred to as a sign of occupancy, although he uses the land for no purpose of his own.

We had scarcely landed at the beach than several Opobo men fired their guns as a

* No. 121*.

signal to the inhabitants that they must avoid us. Accordingly, on our way to the town, we being preceded along the route by a number of Ja Ja's men, the natives hastily ran into the bush as we approached, and if they ventured to linger or to exchange greetings with us, the Opobo men threatened and abused them till they turned away.

In the town it was just the same. The place, previously teeming with population, suddenly, at the shouts of the Opobians, became deserted. The natives all flocked into their houses, and the Opobo traders stood as sentries at the doorways. We went to the residence of the ex-Chief Baba, but he sent a message to say Ja Ja's men had threatened to kill him if he spoke to the Europeans. A Lagos woman whom we had brought as interpreter penetrated into Baba's harem and there she found most of the women crying. They implored her to take us away, as Ja Ja's men had threatened to kill Baba's people if they spoke to the white men. Whilst she was talking some Opobo men came in and ordered her out roughly. The behaviour of the Opobians, with the exception of some "boys" belonging to a friendly Opobo Chief, Uranta, whom Mr. Hewett recently placed under special Consular protection, was very insolent, and they seemed not unwilling to provoke a quarrel with us.

I should mention that this same Chief, Baba, who was now prevented from seeing us, welcomed the white men to Ohombela some months previously, exchanged presents with them, and promised them the piece of land above referred to. For doing so he was forcibly deposed by Ja Ja, who has repeatedly declared that he had nothing to do with the Ibo people, and claimed to exercise no control over their affairs; and Ekike Notsho, an adherent of Ja Ja's, was made Chief in Baba's place.

While wandering about Ohombela we managed, despite the vigilance of the Opobian scouts, to get speech with certain of the inhabitants through our interpreters, and these, while furtively looking around to see that no "Bonny men" (as they call the Opobo people) were within hearing, assured us they were only too willing to have white men trading at Ohombela, provided we either induced Ja Ja to absolve them from the oath he had forced them to take (not to trade with other than his own people), or else agreed to protect them from his vengeance.

The district of Ohombela is a very large trade centre for the Ibo country. I met people there coming from Igara and other places on the Niger, and from Ikorofo on the Cross (Old Calabar) River. The quantity of palm oil brought to the market of Ohombela is amazing, exceeding anything yet seen at the other markets. The district also produces cam wood of good quality, and very valuable timber called "false mahogany," which the merchants can sell in England at a profit of 50 per cent. Many other valuable products might be exploited at Ohombela, provided Ja Ja removes his ban on British commerce.

Returning from Ohombela, I next visited the Esene markets in the Kwo country. The Kwo people belong to the Efik race, are in fact nearly identical in language and descent with the inhabitants of Old Calabar. Here matters looked brighter for British trade. The people had plucked up courage to brave Ja Ja's anger, and had given the white men a fine site of ground on which two factories were already (although the ground was only cleared one month since) half built. I found the Esene Chiefs, however, somewhat despondent. Some messengers of Ja Ja's had just been there and had told them that as soon as Ja Ja's emissaries had spoken to the white man's Queen, Her Majesty would instantly order the half-built factories to be pulled down, and that the Esene people would then be given up to Ja Ja for punishment. To allay their fears, I persuaded a deputation (one Chief and three Headmen) to return with me to Opobo. Here I have shown them over the gun-boat, and have pointed out to them the difference between Ja Ja's squalid town and the well-built, extensive settlements of the white men. I have further given the Chief a present in the Queen's name, as a mark of Her Majesty's satisfaction at his friendly treatment of her subjects.

The Esene district is a very large one, stretching nearly all the way from the Opobo to the Cross River, including the basin of the Kwo-Ibo stream. Large and navigable streams penetrate its very centre. The inhabitants are industrious, very friendly, but unwarlike and timid, and thus easily terrorized by a swaggering bully like Ja Ja. Their country is admirably cultivated, and superior in agriculture to any of the surrounding districts. The roads are very broad (for Africa), and are kept so clean that not a weed can be seen on their sandy surfaces, while the neatly-clipped hedges and magnificent timber trees which border them remind one of the English landscapes. Large herds of cattle, sheep, and goats are kept by the Kwo people, and the white men who have been living there for the last month assure me that provisions of meat, fish, and vegetables are so abundant and cheap that they seldom have recourse to their tinned provisions.

From the farthest point to which I penetrated inland I could see the ground rising into

gently undulating hills. The placid stream up which we were travelling became a strong mountain torrent. Here is the country where white men may hope to settle and enjoy good health, and it is from lands like these that runaway slaves and upstart Kings like Ja Ja are trying to keep us from penetrating, lest their ill-gotten gains as middlemen may be diminished.

I confess this is a subject on which I can hardly write with patience. When I think of the thousands of pounds which the five British firms have spent in perfecting their arrangement for penetrating to the only part of this country which is worth exploitation, a land where they might hope to enjoy good health and where the products for which they came to trade are produced, and when I reflect that in attaining this object all the obstacles that are placed in their way come from a grasping, ruthless, overbearing ex-slave whom adventitious circumstances have surrounded with a prestige and importance he does not merit, I can understand the complaints that the merchants make of the lukewarm way in which the British Government supports British traders who are no longer content to sit down on the unhealthy fringe of swampy coast and trade in a peddling way through middlemen, but who desire to plant their establishments in the rich interior and avoid the tax on the produce which the middlemen have hitherto imposed. I can understand these complaints, but at the same time I feel sure that they are unfounded, that Her Majesty's Government, so far from desiring to support native Chiefs or usurping middlemen in their claims to close their markets to the white men, will insist uniformly on freedom of trade in all districts under Her Majesty's protection or within the provisions agreed to at the Berlin Conference.

In conclusion, there is one point to which I desire respectfully to draw your Lordship's attention, that is, with regard to native Chiefs or "Kings" such as Ja Ja holding direct communication with Her Majesty's Government.

They are, of course, at liberty to write direct to the Foreign Office, and they can further, if they are disposed, send deputations to England to represent their views and interests; but I would venture, with due deference to your Lordship's opinion, to deprecate the advisability of returning an answer to the communications of Chiefs residing within this Protectorate, save through the medium of Her Majesty's Consular Representatives. Only four days ago, whilst I was endeavouring to negotiate an amicable settlement with Ja Ja, the mail-steamer arrived from England and brought a letter from your Lordship to that Chief. What the contents of that letter were I do not know, but shortly afterwards Ja Ja sent to inform me that, inasmuch as he intended henceforth to carry on his transactions with the British Government directly, and not through the medium of Her Majesty's Consular officers, he declined to discuss with me any further the questions in dispute.

My position, situated as I am without any physical force to support my administration of the affairs of this Protectorate, is sufficiently hard to render inadvisable any weakening of my moral influence over the native Chiefs, and I would therefore respectfully, but earnestly, urge on your Lordship the necessity of causing Ja Ja and other similar native Rulers to understand that the British Government thoroughly recognizes me as an agent qualified to treat with them on all matters pertaining to their exterior relations, and to act as an intermediary between them and Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I trust to have the honour in my next despatch to communicate to your Lordship a favourable solution of the outstanding dispute between Ja Ja and the British traders. As soon as this is effected, I shall proceed to the interior to make Treaties with all the friendly independent Chiefs along the Opobo River who are desirous of throwing open their markets to the white men.

In conclusion, I would state that one of the leading members of the deputation which Ja Ja has sent to England to seek an interview with your Lordship is a Chief named Kuki Gam, who is, and has been, one of the bitterest and most unscrupulous opponents of the extension of British trade to the markets of the interior. Kuki Gam himself has forced many of the native tribes to swear they would do no trade with white men.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

No. 129.

Foreign Office to Messrs. G. A. Moore and Co.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, September 8, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, respecting the hindrances to trade in the Brass River; and, in reply, I am to state to you that the matter will receive his Lordship's serious consideration.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 130.

King Ja Ja to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 9.)

My Lord Marquis,

Opobo River, August 1, 1887.

I HAVE to acknowledge your two favours of the 14th and 16th June, and note that you are giving my statements in reference to my grievances against Consul Hewett your due consideration; also that you will make me a further communication in regard to the attempt to obtain a Royal Charter for this river and the surrounding countries with which we trade.

I beg to state that I have sent two of my Chiefs, Cookey Gam and Chue Peterside, and one of my sons, to England, to the Foreign Office, thinking that their presence there might facilitate matters, and enable us to go on trading peacefully as in former years.

Acting Consul Johnston arrived here on board Her Majesty's ship "Goshawk" on Wednesday, and I attended a meeting held on one of the merchant's beaches on Thursday, but I simply referred Consul Johnston to my Chiefs at home, but gave him to understand that I would give him a decided answer on their return.

Hoping, my Lord, you will give my Chiefs a very favourable hearing, and let them proceed here again in a short time.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JA JA, King of Opobo.

No. 131.

Memorandum by the Marquis of Salisbury.

NOTHING in the Memorandum of the Department, or in the papers sent with it, throws much light upon the most important issue, namely, whether Ja Ja is in any sense Ruler of the territory of Ahombebe, from which he has excluded our trade. If he is Ruler, then, assuming we are dealing with him according to strict law, he is in his right. If he is not Ruler, and is merely making use of his power as a waterside King to stop the highway, then he is in the wrong.

I have not the paper here, but I recollect that in the statement of the merchants it was said that the traders who tried to go to Ahombebe were met by the King of that place, who informed them that he had been put there by Ja Ja, and that Ja Ja "had made and owned the land." This, if true, seems to me an indication of *de facto* dominion, and any discussion about his title becomes irrelevant. *De facto* dominion is the only thing of which we can take any notice, for none of us are learned enough to determine the legitimacy, according to native laws, of a Guinea King.

The only thing that is to be done, under the circumstances, is to ask the Admiralty to send a gun-boat; that the Captain should be instructed to inquire into the case; if there is any evidence of an attempt to block the highway, that he should inflict whatever punishment he can, and thinks right; but that if Ja Ja's action has been confined to excluding us from countries which are under his control, that then he should negotiate, and make the best terms he can; and that in all matters he should act upon his own judgment, or if in doubt, should refer to his superior officer.

I am not satisfied with the entire impartiality of Consul Johnston's judgment, though he has gone less astray than Consul Hewett; but I think his action may be

approved by telegram, and he should be informed, at the same time, of the application we are making to the Admiralty.

S.

September 9, 1887.

No. 132.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Miller, Brother, and Co.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, September 9, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant respecting the stoppage of trade in the Opobo River; and, in reply, I am to state to you that the matter is engaging his Lordship's serious attention, and that a further communication will be addressed to you on the subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 133.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir James Fergusson.—(Received September 11, 11.55 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

Royat, September 11, 1887, 9.9 A.M.

THERE is no objection to the deputation being received. But, in any case, I think a gun-boat ought to go to Opobo, as suggested in Minute.

No. 134.

Acting Consul Johnston to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 12, 3.55 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

Opobo, September 12, 1887.

ASK immediate permission remove Ja Ja temporarily Gold Coast. Organizes armed attacks, obstructs waterways, markets. Intrigues render this course imperative. Despatch following explains. Ask Admiralty telegraph assistance.

No. 135.

Foreign Office to Cookey Gam.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, September 12, 1887, 5.20 P.M.

SIR JAMES FERGUSSON, on behalf of Lord Salisbury, will receive deputation at Foreign Office to-morrow, at 2.30.

No. 136.

Telegram to the Marquis of Salisbury.

September 12, 1887.

FOLLOWING received from Johnston, Opobo, dated to-day:—

“Ask immediate permission remove Ja Ja temporarily to Gold Coast. Organizes armed attacks, obstructs waterways and markets. His intrigues render this course imperative. Ask Admiralty to telegraph assistance.”

Does this telegram modify your Lordship's Memorandum received last night?

Ja Ja has no rights over Ahombebe, as alleged; but he could not be imprisoned at Gold Coast without local Ordinance. He might be kept on board vessel of war until further instructions.

J. P.

Minute by Mr. Wylde.

Sir James Fergusson,

I have telegraphed to the Ja Ja deputation that you will see them, on Lord Salisbury's behalf, at 2.30 to-morrow, at the Foreign Office.

I annex telegrams sent to Lord Salisbury and Acting Consul Johnston this afternoon on the telegram received to-day from Opobo.

The other papers are those just sent back by Lord Salisbury, and the communication from the deputation shows their object in coming here.

E. W. W.

September 12, 1887.

No. 137.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Acting Consul Johnston.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, September 12, 1887, 3.45 P.M.

YOUR action with regard to Ja Ja approved.

Further instructions will be sent after communication with Admiralty.

No. 138.

African Association to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 13.)

My Lord,

19, Castle Street, Liverpool, September 12, 1887.

I AM desired by the Opobo Committee of this Association to forward you copy of the following telegram, received this day from the Court of Commerce at Opobo:—

"Consul and agents attacked at Azumiri by armed forces; Ja Ja instigates."

In drawing attention to the very serious nature of its purport, the Committee respectfully pray your Lordship will therein find additional ground for the removal of Ja Ja. They are convinced no other course will avail to terminate the increasing difficulties in the Opobo River.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. STANLEY ROGERSON, *Chairman.*

No. 139.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received September 13.)

Sir,

Admiralty, September 12, 1887.

WITH reference to your letter of the 6th instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to state, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, that Captain Hand, of Her Majesty's ship "Royalist," has been called upon to report what the "means" are which he alludes to in the 6th paragraph of his letter of the 29th January last for "bringing Ja Ja to his Treaty obligations without having resort to hostilities."

I am, &c.

(Signed) E. M. PRIMROSE, *pro Sec.*

No. 140.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Foreign Office.—(Received September 13, 10.45 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

Royat, September 13, 1887, 9.35 A.M.

ADHERE to my instructions already given and execute them. Consul's language and proposals do not inspire me with confidence. Naval officer will be less under influence of the merchants.

No. 141.

Sir James Fergusson to Sir P. Currie.

My dear Currie,

House of Commons, September 13, 1887.

HERE is Anderson's letter which I could not lay hands on to-day, but I think I was quite aware of the facts or views stated in it. The "five merchants" want him swept away because he opposes them. Miller is his virtual partner, and shares his monopoly as his agent. Lord Salisbury's expedient is virtually Anderson's. I only hope it does not put Hewett's nose too much out of joint.

Ever yours sincerely,

(Signed)

JAMES FERGUSSON.

Inclosure in No. 141.

Sir P. Anderson to Sir J. Pauncefote.

My dear Pauncefote,

Saumarez Hall, Guernsey, September 10, 1887.

I FEAR Ja Ja's Envoys may be troublesome. Perhaps the following remarks may be useful in dealing with them.

I have had letters from persons with whom they have been in communication which explain the real objects of their journey.

Ja Ja is the ablest of the coast middlemen; he is a man of energy and considerable ability.

The African traders of Liverpool, who support the middlemen of the Brass River against the Niger Company, wish to break Ja Ja in order that they may trade freely in the Opobo and Eboe Creeks, which are outside the Niger Company's operations. In each case they follow their own interests; but if Ja Ja clashes with those interests it does not follow that he is criminal for acting in the manner for which the Brass men are applauded.

The Liverpool men are prejudiced witnesses. Hewett has never been able to speak with temper of Ja Ja, who is his *bête noir*. On the other hand, the naval officers invariably speak well of him. It was a very sore point with Hewett when the Admiral cautioned his officers not to act against him by Hewett's advice without special orders. He also has a friend in a trader who is, or was, on the Niger Company's Council.

We are safe in assuming that whereas the traders wish to throw trade open and penetrate into the interior, he wishes to keep up his middleman profits; that he is sharp enough to hold his own with the Europeans, and powerful enough to overawe the natives in the interior. This is sufficient to explain the ill-feeling on both sides.

He appeals to his engagements and negotiations with us.

Some years since Dr. Livingstone signed a Treaty with him, by which we agreed that no Englishman should enter the inland waters. If the Treaty were now in force our case would fall to the ground. It has never been abrogated, but, luckily, Ja Ja infringed some provisions of it; we took advantage of this to tell him that we could not maintain a Treaty of which he reaped the benefits without observing the obligations, and that we consequently considered it at an end; so we got rid of this inconvenient document, and I hear that he is not disposed now to appeal to it.

We consequently fall back on Hewett's recent Treaty of Protectorate. Now, as to this, it is the fact that Ja Ja refused to sign the clause admitting foreigners to freedom of trade and settlement, and that that clause is not in the Treaty which he signed. Under these circumstances, it would hardly be consistent with good faith to act absolutely as if he had signed the clause.

And hitherto we have not done so. Our course has been quite consistent. We have said: "The Livingstone Treaty being abolished, we insist on the right of free access to the interior, of free transit, and of free shipment of goods in transit; as regards the produce of your own territories, or settlement in those territories, you have freedom of action."

I understand that he is now making a counter-move to this, and that his Envoys claim that all the interior markets (known as the Eboe) belong to him. Hewett and the traders, on the other hand, say that he owns no markets at all.

I think that, by keeping the argument to this point, we have a solution of the troublesome question, and may get rid of the Envoys without any questions of breach of faith.

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Let them say what territory they claim, and let Hewett say what he gives. Then appoint a Commission, of which Johnston should be a member, and a naval officer on the station; perhaps, also, a local Chairman of a Court of Equity, to ascertain what his actual territory was at the time of the signature of the Hewett Treaty. Johnston (if the others decline to accompany him) should survey the inland creeks, which are hardly known.

Unless Hewett is absolutely wrong *ab initio*, which one cannot believe, such a Commission would break down altogether the case of ownership; and as this is now the only case of importance (for it is a matter of indifference what duties are imposed on what Hewett gives to Ja Ja as his own dominions), the traders' point would be gained without any high-handed dealing on our part.

If Ja Ja were afterwards troublesome, we should then be justified in dealing with him, and have a good defence against attacks of sentimentalists. But I am bound to say I do not believe, under present circumstances, in the idea of deportation of which Hewett speaks; he has done no act to justify perpetual imprisonment, and if not imprisoned, he would re-embark and go back again. We cannot make an Iron Mask of him.

Yours truly,
(Signed) H. PERCY ANDERSON.

No. 142.

Messrs. Couper, Johnstone, and Co. to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 14.)

My Lord, 58, Bath Street, Glasgow, September 13, 1887.

YOUR letter of the 10th August, informing us that Consul Johnston had telegraphed from the West Coast of Africa stating that Ja Ja had agreed to remove restrictions on trade in the Opobo River, and permit free communication with the markets in the interior, made our minds easy on receipt of letters from our agent, stating that Ja Ja had threatened the Chiefs of the interior with death if they traded with us.

We are sorry to advise you, however, that trade has continued stopped, notwithstanding your assurance as to Ja Ja's obedience to the Consul's request, and we are now informed by the African Association that they have received a telegram yesterday to the effect that Her Majesty's Consul and our respective agents have been attacked at Azumiri by armed forces, at Ja Ja's instigation.

We shall not be surprised to learn that Ja Ja refrains from taking any ostensible part in open warfare, but there is no doubt of his influence in the matter, from what we are advised by our agent in his interviews with the interior native tribes.

We understand that the Consul and naval officers had come to the opinion that the only way of solving the difficulty, after their experience of this wily and astute potentate, was to have him removed, and we quite agree with them. We believe there is no other man who possesses the same despotic power as Ja Ja on the whole West Coast of Africa.

We therefore earnestly beseech your Lordship to take active measures in support of law and authority in the Opobo River, and we wait with much anxiety to learn what course of action you may have adopted.

We are, &c.
(For Couper, Johnstone, and Co., Limited),
(Signed) WILLIAM COUPER, *Manager*.

No. 143.

Rio Bento Kernel Company to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 14.)

My Lord, 46, Tower Buildings, Liverpool, September 13, 1887.

WE are in receipt of your Lordship's reply to ours of the 3rd instant, and are obliged for the promise therein to give the matter serious consideration.

We have just received per "Benin" some further particulars of this affair, which we beg to lay before your Lordship, as it shows that the combination against our firm is more extensive and organized than we previously supposed.

Our representative, Mr. W. E. Jinks, writing on the 2nd August last, says:—

"It got wind that I had shipped some kernels, and the boys (natives) have watched the beach every night since, or I hoped to have got a very fair share of anything going. I inclose you herewith a letter from Chief Cameroon. By 'law people,' he means the native boys, who have combined to prevent any one trading with us."

The following is a copy of the autograph letter of Chief Cameroon which is referred to and in our possession:—

"My dear Sir,

"Twor Town, July 8, 1887.

"I am very sorry to tell you that I heard that the law people came down just now and always keeping watch, so I did not know how to manage and bring the kernel, and also again to measure the kernel in the day time it make afraid, so I will not bring it now again.

"Begging you not to be discourage, I remain, &c.

(Signed)

"Chief J. CAMEROON."

We earnestly commend the above to your Lordship's notice, trusting you will see the necessity which exists for intervention on our behalf.

We are, &c.

(The Rio Bento Kernel Company, Limited),

(Signed) G. A. MOORE AND Co., Managers.

No. 144.

Foreign Office to African Association.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 15, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant; and, in reply, I am to state to you that a naval officer is about to proceed to Obopo to hold a careful inquiry into all the circumstances attending the recent stoppage of trade and other disturbances in that district.

I am to add that the question is engaging the anxious consideration of Her Majesty's Government, and that, in the meanwhile, it has been ascertained that a sufficient naval force is at present at Opobo to prevent further disturbance or injury to British interests.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

P. CURRIE.

No. 145.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Couper, Johnstone, and Co.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, September 15, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, relating to the alleged proceedings of King Ja Ja at Opobo.

In reply, I am to state to you that this question is engaging the serious attention of Her Majesty's Government; that a naval officer is about to proceed to Obopo to hold a thorough investigation into all the circumstances connected with these occurrences; and that, in the meanwhile, a sufficient naval force is at that place to prevent further disturbance or injury to British interests.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

P. CURRIE.

No. 146.

Foreign Office to Consul Hewitt.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 17, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you, in original, to be returned, a further letter, as marked in the margin,* on the subject of hindrances to trade in the Brass River.

* No. 143.

I am to request that, at your earliest convenience, you will have the goodness to furnish his Lordship with any observations which you may have to make on this, and on the previous letter of the Rio Bento Kernel Company, which you have now under your consideration.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 147.

Foreign Office to Rio Bento Kernel Company.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, September 17, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, giving further details concerning the hindrance of your trade in the Brass River; and, in reply, I am to acquaint you that the matter is being carefully considered by Her Majesty's Government, and that a further communication will be addressed to you on it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 148.

Memorandum.—Rio Bento Kernel Company boycotted by Natives at Brass.

I HAVE read the letter of the above-named Company, dated the 3rd September, and confirm what is therein stated. The combination brought to notice of the natives against a European firm is on the same lines as that at Opobo, except that in the latter case the law would be made by one man, viz., Ja Ja, whereas at Brass it would have to be made by many, viz., the King and the principal Chiefs of the country. Such combinations should be put down with a strong hand, and, in my humble opinion, should be dealt with by the Consul alone, as they are not matters of which an outsider, such as a naval officer, can reasonably be expected to know anything, or certainly not so much as the Consul.

If the requisite means were placed at the Consul's disposal, there would be much less trouble in my district, the Admiralty would have but little cause to complain about the gun-boats having to visit the rivers, and the Consul's authority would be more respected, and his influence would be greater when it became known that he could act without having to consult with a naval officer, almost always his inferior in relative rank, and who I know of no grounds to assume is likely to be better informed on local matters, of more matured judgment or freer from prejudice and impartiality than the officer appointed under the Foreign Office.

(Signed) EDWARD HYDE HEWETT, *Consul.*

London, September 17, 1887.

P.S.—On the second letter to Lord Salisbury from the Rio Bento Kernel Company, dated the 13th September, just received, I have only to repeat and accentuate the expression of my opinion above given, viz., that these combinations, restrictive to commerce, must be put down by strong means, and that the natives must be made to understand that we insist upon perfect freedom of trade being accorded to black as well as to white traders.

E. H. H.

No. 149.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 19.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and begs to inclose a copy of a telegram received this day from the Governor of the Gold Coast.

An official copy will be sent in due course, with a request to be informed what answer should be returned.

Colonial Office, September 18, 1887.

Inclosure in No. 149.

Colonel White to Sir H. Holland.

(Telegraphic.)

Accra, September 18, 1887.

AM requested by Consul Opobo detain Ja Ja's Envoys and son on board of "Opobo" on account of extreme political necessity. Critical state of affairs. Have informed him I will comply pending instructions.

No. 150.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 19.)

Sir,

Downing Street, September 19, 1887.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir Henry Holland to transmit to you a copy of a telegram from the Officer administering the Government of the Gold Coast Colony, reporting that, at the request of the Consul at Opobo, he intended to detain Ja Ja's Envoys and son who are on board of the steam-ship "Opobo."

Sir H. Holland would be glad to be informed what instructions the Marquis of Salisbury would wish to be sent to Colonel White on the subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) R. H. MEADE.

Inclosure in No. 150.

Colonel White to Sir H. Holland.

(Telegraphic.)

Accra, September 18, 1887.

AM requested by Consul Opobo detain Ja Ja's Envoys and son on board of "Opobo" on account of extreme political necessity. Critical state of affairs. Have informed him I will comply pending instructions.

No. 151.

Acting Consul Johnston to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 13. Africa.)

My Lord,

Opobo River, August 12, 1887.

ON the 6th August I had the honour to send your Lordship a telegram worded thus:—

"Ja Ja agrees remove restrictions free trade markets interior."

Your Lordship will perhaps remember that in my despatch No. 11 of the 28th July, 1887, I stated that, after examining into the complaints brought against King Ja Ja by the European traders in Opobo River, I had proposed to him two conditions respecting free trade at the markets to which I thought, if necessary, he should agree. He declined to do so, and I therefore dispatched a message to Captain Hand, Her Majesty's Senior Naval Officer in command of the West Coast division, asking him to proceed to Opobo to afford my authority efficient support. He came at once in Her Majesty's ship "Alecto." After considering carefully all the facts I had to lay before him, he entirely agreed with me that Ja Ja's position was untenable, and that he must be given clearly to understand that continued breaches of Treaty obligations and reckless disregard of Consular advice would entail very serious consequences to himself and his people. Ja Ja was consequently summoned to another meeting, and after a little reconsideration preferred to sign the Agreement, of which a copy is inclosed.

This having been done, we then proceeded to carry his Agreement into effect. On the 7th August Captain Hand, myself, five European trading agents, and three of Ja Ja's principal Chiefs started for the great Ibo market of Ohombela. We were escorted for more than half the distance by Her Majesty's ships "Alecto" and "Goshawk;" further, the steam-cutter of the "Alecto," which mounted a Gardner gun, accompanied us to the very termination of our journey, the landing-place at Ohombela beach. I was much

obliged to Captain Hand for taking considerable trouble in navigating this almost unknown river. Although no threats of force were ever used, still it has had a most beneficial effect on Ja Ja's turbulent subjects to show them that we can, if necessary, bring an armed force to the markets by water, and are thus easily able to protect our fellow-subjects against violence.

I regret to say that, when we had arrived at Ohombela, Ja Ja's Envoys tried every means of evading their instructions, and we were thus delayed in attaining the objects of our mission, but at last they yielded, and in the presence of the Ibo Chiefs solemnly broke the "ju-ju," or oath which had hitherto bound the people of Ohombela to trade solely with Ja Ja.

I have, however, reason to believe that neither Ja Ja nor the majority of his Chiefs loyally accept the conditions of the Agreement which the former has signed, and that for some time to come we shall have to expect a covert opposition to the establishment of European traders at the markets beyond Ja Ja's territory. Since my return from the last expedition to Ohombela I have thought it well to write Ja Ja a letter (of which a copy is inclosed) warning him of the consequences which may follow the continued misbehaviour of his people at the markets of the interior. To this letter he has sent me a reply, a copy of which I place before your Lordship.

The Ibo Chiefs of Ohombela received with much satisfaction the assurances of Her Majesty's power to protect them against acts of violence or encroachment on Ja Ja's part. On my return there in two or three days' time, they have expressed a wish to conclude a Treaty placing their country under British protection, and they will also then allot the white traders ground to build on.

I have assured Ja Ja repeatedly that, if his people behave properly at the markets, and do not arrogate to themselves special rights and privileges in commerce, they will be able to continue trading undisturbed by the advent of new comers, and that their legitimate interests will be equally cared for with those of any other British-protected subjects. At the same time, I cannot satisfy myself that Ja Ja intends to accept the principle of free trade in a sincere manner. He will continue, I fear, to use every covert means to prevent our merchants from opening up direct trade with the rich markets of the interior. Whether he is really intriguing, or disposed to intrigue, with some European Power (as local rumour asserts) for the purpose of withdrawing from British protection, I do not know. I inclose, however, the copy of a letter recently written to Ja Ja by the Kings and Chiefs of Bonny, in which the charge is hinted at, but I believe that he only considers his present submission in the matter of free trade a temporary concession, and that he is resolved to reopen the question when his Mission returns from England. He at present affects to be convinced that, as soon as your Lordship has considered the arguments of his Envoys, the British traders will be forbidden to trade at the markets of the interior, and that he will be able to resume his former lucrative position as middleman. I need hardly say that, if Ja Ja's hopes were fulfilled, it would mean the complete withdrawal of British commerce from Opobo, as owing to the great decrease in the value of palm oil, the merchants are compelled now to exploit the other products of the interior, such as rubber, timber, cacao (cacao is grown by the industrious Ibo people), dye woods, gums, and such relatively novel articles of export that Ja Ja's limited enterprise ignores.

Personally, I share Mr. Consul Hewett's conviction that this country will never be really opened to the full tide of commerce and civilization till Ja Ja has been removed from his position as King. He is an old man now, past 60, and I feel sure that his declining years would be more happily spent if he surrendered his affairs to the administration of the British Government, and retired with his family to some tranquil retreat, in the receipt of an ample pension paid to him out of his estate. Whatever steps Her Majesty's Government may decide to take with regard to Ja Ja's future position, he can, at any rate, have no reason to complain of his relations with the British. Originally a runaway slave from Bonny, he owes his very existence to our intervention and protection, while from the generous support and custom of British merchants he has amassed a considerable fortune.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 151.

Agreement signed by King Ja Ja to remove restrictions to Free Trade at Markets.

I, JA JA, King of Opobo, do hereby agree to the following conditions :—

1. If any one of my people is proved to have molested British subjects trading at the markets, or to have placed obstacles in the way of free trade at the said markets, this person is, on conviction before the Consul, to be severely punished, and I hold myself responsible for the payment of any fine inflicted on him.

2. I agree to send not later than 7th August, 1887, a big Chief to accompany Acting Consul Johnston to the markets, and the big Chief shall there, in Acting Consul Johnston's presence and in my name, "break" the "ju-ju" which prevents the people of the interior from trading with the white men, and shall announce to the Chiefs and peoples my adherence to the principle of free trade.

I further agree never at any time, or at any place, to impose or cause to be imposed any restriction whatsoever on free trade, either by exacting oaths, concluding Agreements, or levying duties, without the permission of Her Majesty's Government.

(Signed) JA JA.

Witnesses to signature :

(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON, *Acting Consul.*
G. W. HAND, *Captain and Senior Officer.*
SAMUEL B. HALL, *Chairman, Chamber of Commerce.*
A. H. TURNBULL, *Agent for Messrs, Alex. Miller, Brothers.*
J. H. PELLY, *Lieutenant and Commander H.M.S. "Goshawk."*

Opobo River, August 5, 1887.

Inclosure 2 in No. 151.

Acting Consul Johnston to King Ja Ja.

Sir,

Messrs. Harrison's Beach, Opobo River, August 11, 1887.

I HAVE returned from visiting the Ibo town of Ohombela in company with Captain Hand, Her Majesty's Senior Naval Officer in command of the West Coast Division. I regret to say that considerable waste of time was incurred in effecting the object of my journey, which was, as you know, the proclaiming of free trade at the markets and the release of the Ibo people from the oath which you had made them swear to trade exclusively with your subjects. This delay was caused by the apparent unwillingness of your Envoys, the Chiefs Ogolo, Saturday Ja Ja, and William Toby, to carry out the mission on which they had been sent. Early in the morning of Monday, 8th August, we arrived at the mouth of the Ohombela Creek, and in order to save time I requested the Chief Ogolo to dispatch one of his men, together with our interpreters, to the town of Ohombela, to summon the Chiefs to a meeting. About two hours afterwards they returned, however, and the interpreters stated that Ogolo's man had refused to accompany them to the town or to help them in any way whatever to summon the Chiefs. Consequently I immediately started together with Captain Hand and the European agents for Ohombela beach. On arriving there we were delayed for another hour because your three Chiefs declined to send an Opobo man with the European agents and interpreters to call the Chiefs to meet Captain Hand and myself at the beach. At last, however, they consented to do so, and the deputation started for Ohombela town. When arrived there, however, they found that every obstacle had been put in their way by the Opobo men, and they were unable to obtain an interview with any of the Chiefs except Akra Oranti. On the return of our messengers, as no Ibo men came to our meeting to witness the breaking of the "ju ju," Captain Hand and myself informed your three Chiefs that as all the influence of Opobo had been exerted to prevent the Ibo men from attending a meeting with the Europeans, we should hold Ogolo, Saturday, and William Toby responsible for the failure of our mission, and should expect them to bring the Ibo Chiefs down to the steam launches the next day. Accordingly on the morrow (9th August) Ogolo and his two companions started for Ohombela and brought down four Ibo Chiefs in their canoes to the mouth of the Ohombela Creek, where I had remained with Captain Hand. We therefore held a meeting, and Ogolo, in the presence of these Ibo men and of ourselves, broke the

"ju-ju" which had hitherto prevented free trade at the Ohombela markets. In this manner the second clause of your Agreement of the 5th August has been carried out according to the letter. It now remains to be seen whether you intend to fulfil it in the spirit. I am returning shortly to Ohombela for the purpose of arranging certain matters with the Ibo men. I shall carefully observe the demeanour of your people. If they behave in a proper manner to myself and the trading agents, if they go about their business in a quiet, orderly manner, and abstain from all annoyance both in word and deed, if they give no just cause of complaint to the European merchants, then I shall endeavour to protect your interests at Ohombela, and I shall instruct the agents in the river to resume the payment of "comey." If, however, your people at Ohombela beach or elsewhere at the markets continue their present offensive demeanour, and endeavour to annoy and obstruct Europeans who are desirous of trading in the interior, I shall simply expel them from the market at which the offence has been committed.

I wish you clearly to understand that as long as your people behave themselves in a proper manner, they will have an equal right with all other British and British-protected subjects to trade wheresoever they will, but that if they endeavour to prevent other traders from enjoying the same advantages, they will be forbidden to visit the markets of the interior. This same rule will apply equally to all others trading in the British Protectorate of the Oil Rivers, natives and Europeans alike.

Provided your subjects and slaves conform to the conditions herein mentioned, I shall not interfere with your establishments, nor take away any land which may have been sold or let to you by the natives. But I cannot permit your people to prevent access to the beaches or markets by cutting off roads or monopolizing landing-places. At Ohombela, for instance, a space must be marked off as neutral where the road comes down to the river-side, and any person wilfully obstructing this landing-place will be punished.

In conclusion, I desire to earnestly impress on you the advisability of your adopting a loyal and friendly attitude toward the European traders, who are doing and who have done so much to open up this country to civilization and commerce; and I further request that you will instruct all your adherents, subjects, and slaves to abstain from any behaviour calculated to annoy or impede British subjects engaged in trading at the markets of the interior.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 151.

King Ja Ja to Acting Consul Johnston.

Dear Sir,

Opobo Town, August 12, 1887.

I HAVE received your letter this morning, contents duly noted. In reply, I beg to state that I have done what you had requested me to do, that is, to send my Chiefs to go with you to Ohumbla to break off the "ju-ju" we gave them. This I had done, and which was at last accomplished in your presence. I have no more to do in the matter again. Ebo men are not my slaves nor my subjects; I only bound them with "ju-ju," the same you found out, and forced me to break it off, which I have done. We trade with them only. If you do not wish me to trade in Ohumbla, say it, and I will do the same, and wait until my people comes back from England. In your own presence, one of the principal Ebo Chiefs told you that they are not Ja Ja's slaves, and is sufficient for you to know that I had no more power over them. You are Consul, and have made me to do what against my will. Exercise the same influence in Ohumbla. My people never trouble any traders that have been making several visits in the markets, nor they ever will do. Trouble me no more about Ohumbla people or market.

I beg, &c.
(Signed) JA JA.

Kings and Chiefs of Bonny to King Ja Ja and Chiefs of Opobo.

Gentlemen,

Pelekule House, Grand Bonny, July 22, 1887.

ON the 22nd and 27th of last month we sent two messages to you, asking for information from you as to the cause of the disturbed relation between you and the white men in your river, pointing out to you at the same time that we would regret any actions of yours that would tend to retard the peaceful progress of our trade.

To these frank and courteous messages of ours you have made devious replies. We therefore resolved to inquire from the agents in your river as to the real facts of the case; and we have ascertained from them that the causes which have led to these serious troubles can be summed up in a few words, "Despotic monopoly in trade," or, to make it more plain to you, "Protection *versus* Free Trade." They said you wanted them not to chop, so they have gone past you into the interior to find their chop.

However, when we sent to ask you on the 20th instant, you told us that the white men first quarrelled with you about "Topping," and you recapitulated the unjust fines, amounting to 300 puncheons of oil, that Consul Hewett had levied from you, which you said you finished up in one morning. Also, that you had not as yet sold our ancestors' markets, but you had deputed some of your Chiefs to start for England by last steamer to represent your case to the British Government, and in the event of their representation being unsuccessful, not being respected in England, you will tell the said Chiefs to appeal to and call in some foreign nation, with whom you may arrange either to buy the markets or trade with you, instead of the Englishmen.

In the face of all this disregard for Bonny, by acting on your own responsibility and without our consent, we have to inform you that, from henceforth, you must not consider the markets solely your own, the unjust and iniquitous diplomacy by which you have been enjoying the lion's share of the markets for these many years is now as well known by the British Government and the English merchants as it is patent to you and ourselves.

The advancement of the age, and our right of seniority as the elder branch of the Bonny family, forbids us to permit your usurpation of the Bonny markets any longer.

And we must warn you that we object to, will oppose your bringing foreigners into our markets, or arrogating to yourself a right which was never given to you by us, and which you never acquired by conquest, of selling our markets to foreigners, which markets are the joint and common property of all Bonny and Opobo-Bonny citizens.

(Signed) KING AND CHIEFS OF BONNY.

No. 152.

King Ja Ja to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 21.)

My Lord,

Opobo River, August 12, 1887.

I MUST confess that the troubles now with Consul Johnston is more than I can bear. It appears to me that the Consuls sent out to this now are not reporting to your Lordship their actual doings, and it strikes me very much that they are reporting quite the reverse to their actions, as I do not believe that their actions here are supported by you on the face of the Treaty and letter in support of same given me by Consul Hewett.

I had been, prior to Consul Hewett and Consul Johnston, done with Livingstone and others, who I must say acted quite the reverse to the present; in their time matters were heard on both sides, and the wrongs adjusted, and pointed to either party, but these Consuls now say everything said or done by us are wrong, which made us have a very great suspicion of their actions, as a cause of indirect doings; the fact is, the Consul now, when he arrived in the river, put up just in the house of our opponents, and really, my Lord, from this, you cannot expect us to get justice, and this, of course, we are far from it.

I was made and compel on the 5th instant, under a penalty of having to pay the expense of the two men-of-war, the Senior Naval Officer, Consul Johnston, and the five factories, should I refuse to sign at that day the document marked (A) (inclosed), which, as might was right, I signed against my will, and there wrote letter (B) as my protest to Consul Johnston. Your Lordship will better able to judge as to my treatments last year and this from the hands of the British Consul; since this, Consul Johnston has pr-

ceeded to my markets with two men-of-war, and cause a great sensation; he made me to understand that the Protectorate Treaty is nullified, and I am sure I do not know upon what Treaty, then, he is acting; his laws here is, "Do what I say, or I hand matters to the Senior Naval Officer, that you and your country be dealt with;" we having been ignorant of the British law, we are quite at a loss at this. We have heard of the Germans in the Cameroons taken such actions, but never suspected for a moment that Her Majesty's Consul will follow suite.

Consul Johnston is still in the river with the two men-of-war; we do not know as to whether he intends to blow up our town, as his actions is very much like it, but, whatever may be his further actions, we will communicate.

We are also very much afraid that the actions of Consul Johnston will cause a war between ourselves and Old Bonny. Your Lordship will see by the Treaty of 1873, made between us and Commodore Commerrell, the markets were divided, and Consul Johnston is pushing Old Bonny people to go to our markets, while we do not interfere with theirs. Your Lordship would therefore see exactly what trouble he is trying to bring upon us.

And must say that the five factories in question does not wish to trade, we called on them and insisted upon their trading, but they refuse, and whenever they send for Consuls, upon their arrival, it appears that they make him to do just whatever they wish, the fact is leaving with them entirely, and we can therefore expect no difference from this side in the shape of justice.

I still await your Lordship's decision with my Chiefs, and that they may receive a quick dispatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JA JA, King of Opobo.

Inclosure 1 in No. 152.

(B.)

King Ja Ja to Acting Consul Johnston.

Sir,

Opobo, Western Africa, August 5, 1887.

YOU will please understand that the document I signed to-day was signed under force, as I told you and all the white gentlemen present, including Captain Hand, Her Majesty's ship "Royalist."

I arrived at your place at 9-30, and implored you from then till 12 o'clock A.M. to let the matter rest until the return of my Chiefs from England, as I did not know what progress they would make, but you even truly refused, and insisted upon immediate settlement, threatening that if I did not send at once I would have to pay all expense for five white men's factories, two men-of-war, and yourself.

What other course was open to me but to sign your document, and was that not compulsion?

I even went the length of offering you money to telegraph home to let the matter wait till my Chiefs return, but you refused that again.

I was never aware until to-day that Ohumbla, Assumini, and Esseni were not in my territory, and I don't see how you can define my territory, when I don't seem to know it myself.

It is only Ohumbla you ask me to send my Chief, and I am ready to send him at any time you wish to inform these market people that the "ju-ju" with us is broken; but as you said that if they do not trade with white men you cannot interfere further with me.

Copy of this letter will be forwarded to Lord Salisbury, whom I know will give me justice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JA JA, King of Opobo.

Inclosure 2 in No. 152.

King Ja Ja to Acting Consul Johnston.

Sir,

Opobo Town, July 29, 1887.

IN answer to your question at yesterday's meeting, and which you gave me till this morning to answer, viz., would I or some one of my Chiefs go up with you to the

markets and break the Eboe "ju-ju" which has been acknowledged for fifteen years (since we left Old Bonny and divided the markets), I beg to say that two of my Chiefs, Cookey Gam and Shu Petersede, have gone to England to try and gain an interview with the Foreign Office and settle the palaver.

I must wait till I get their answer, and then I can give you a definite reply, because it would not do for me to agree to one thing and they to another.

I am quite willing that the white men have free access to all the markets for any purpose whatever, pending the decision of the Foreign Office with my Chiefs, but have never, nor have any of my people, ever threatened these Eboe with punishment if they acknowledge or trade with white men; the very reverse: I have always cautioned them in regard to the white men's safety.

If the white men wish to trade better, they pull their flags down.

Hoping that you will allow this palaver to rest till the return of my Chiefs, which I expect in a month or so, I am, &c.

(Signed) JA JA, King of Opobo.

Notes sent by Acting Consul Johnston.

Acting Consul Johnston's decision respecting the question of free trade at the markets:—

1. There is to be absolute free trade at all the Opobo and Bonny markets, for white men and black men alike.

2. Because Ja Ja would not agree to my two conditions, as announced at the meeting of the 28th July, 1887,* and because I was consequently obliged to request Her Majesty's Senior Naval Officer in command of the West Coast Division to proceed to Opobo for the purpose of supporting my authority; because, also, that it has been proved to me that Ja Ja's people have been endeavouring by exercising direct intimidation over the natives to prevent the white men from trading at the markets of the interior:

I order as a punishment for these acts that Ja Ja shall surrender to me, on behalf of the British Government, that site of land at the Ohombela beach which he has recently taken from the Ibo men, and on which, as a sign of occupancy, he has recently erected a long shed, the said shed being also confiscated to the British Government.

This site of ground referred to does not include any of Ja Ja's trading-stores. The delimitation of the aforesaid piece of land is to be carried out by Acting Consul Johnston and a Delegate of Ja Ja's, at the time when Ja Ja sends his Chiefs to Ohombela with Acting Consul Johnston to break the "ju-ju" put on free trade.

3. I, Acting Consul Johnston, agree that if Ja Ja accepts fully the two conditions imposed on him at the meeting of the 28th July, 1887, the payment of "comey" shall be resumed by the British traders during the pleasure of Her Majesty's Government, it being understood that the amount of the "comey" is not to exceed that paid in Bonny.

4. I, Acting Consul Johnston, promise that, subject to the foregoing conditions, I will repay to Ja Ja the balance of the fine conditionally remitted by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the fines still owing and other Court expenses incurred by Ja Ja being previously deducted from the total amount of the remitted fine.

(A.)†

I, Ja Ja, King of Opobo, do hereby agree to the following conditions:—

1. If any of my people is proved to have molested British subjects trading at the markets, or to have placed obstacles in the way of free trade at the said markets, this person is, on conviction before the Consul, to be severely punished, and I hold myself responsible for the payment of any fine inflicted on him.

2. I agree to send, not later than the 7th August, 1887, a big Chief to accompany Acting Consul Johnston to the markets, and the big Chief shall there, in Acting Consul Johnston's presence and in my name, break the "ju-ju" which prevents the people of the interior from trading with the white men, and shall announce to the Chiefs and peoples my adherence to the principle of free trade.‡

* This document was sent by Acting Consul Johnston to King Ja Ja unsigned.

† Document No. 2, which Ja Ja was compelled to sign by Acting Consul Johnston.

‡ This document signed against Ja Ja's wish.

3. I further agree never at any time, or at any place, to impose or cause to be imposed any restrictions whatever on free trade, either by exacting oaths, concluding Agreements, or levying duties, without the permission of Her Majesty's Government.

(Signed)

JA JA.

Captain HAND, *Her Majesty's ship "Royalist."*

Captain PERRY, *Her Majesty's ship "Goshawk."*

Witnesses:

(Signed)

SAMUEL B. HALL, *Chairman,*

Court Commerce.

A. W. TURNBULL.

Opobo River, August 5, 1887.

Inclosure 3 in No. 152.

Acting Consul Johnston to King Ja Ja.

Sir,

Opobo River, August 5, 1887.

I BEG to remind you that I have convened a meeting for to-day at 11 o'clock A.M. on Messrs. Harrison's beach, to settle all outstanding questions, and I desire your attention at that hour.

As it is necessary that a final agreement shall be arrived at to-day, and that I shall incur no further loss of time, it would be advisable for you to come fully provided with any documents or papers you may wish to produce.

I should like to have a little conversation with you before the meeting. It would therefore be well if you came here at 10.30, and I could then give you a few minutes' interview previous to 11 o'clock.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

H. H. JOHNSTON.

No. 153.

Acting Consul Johnston to the Marquis of Salisbury.-(Received September 21, 1.30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

Bonny, September 21, 1887, 8 A.M.

SENIOR Officer Sierra Leone refuses assistance, so I acted as emergency required. Ja Ja surrendered. Am now taking him on mail-steamer to Accra. Opobo quiet, no fighting. Peaceful settlement. Trade reopened.

No. 154.

Memorandum by Mr. Wylde.

ACTING CONSUL JOHNSTON telegraphs to-day from Accra as follows:—

"Senior Officer Sierra Leone refuses assistance, so I acted as emergency required. Ja Ja surrendered. Am now taking him on mail-steamer to Accra. Opobo quiet, no fighting; peaceful settlement. Trade reopened."

This is somewhat awkward and startling intelligence, inasmuch as, having promised the deputation a naval investigation, we are indirectly open to a charge of breach of faith.

From a despatch received this morning from Acting Consul Johnston (No. 13, 12th August) it will be seen that events at Opobo marched more rapidly than our deliberations here.

The text of Johnston's telegram would appear to show that he acted on his own responsibility; but having carefully gone through the correspondence, I would point out, in case Lord Salisbury disapproves of his action, that he may have considered himself warranted in taking the step he did by the contents of our telegram of the 12th instant, which is herewith annexed. This approved his action with regard to his proceedings towards Ja Ja, and said that further instructions would be sent him after communication with the Admiralty. It was forwarded on Lord Salisbury's Minute of the 9th instant, which had not then reached the Department, being received in London on the 11th and going direct to Sir James Fergusson, who was to receive the deputation on the 13th

instant. This telegram of the 12th was sent out the same day as Johnston's telegram of the 12th was received in which he asks permission to remove Ja Ja owing to his organizing armed attacks, &c. Copy of this telegram is annexed.

The probable detention that the Foreign Office telegram would have to undergo in its passage through the creeks from Bonny to Opobo might have induced Acting Consul Johnston to consider it as an answer to his of the 12th, although it, even if he thought so, gave him no authority for the step he has taken, and distinctly said further instructions would be sent after communication with the Admiralty.

The despatch received to day from Johnston is an important one, inasmuch as it states that Captain Hand, the Senior Naval Officer on the station, concurred in Johnston's view of Ja Ja's conduct on the 12th ultimo, and it may be surmised that Ja Ja's removal has been caused by disregard of the injunctions then imposed on him by the combined Naval and Consular authorities. In fact, to a certain extent, the proposed naval inquiry has been forestalled.

However, the step taken, there remains to be seen what can be done to put matters straighter.

We must go on with the question of investigation, as we are bound by the promise to the deputation. At the same time, we cannot altogether overthrow action taken by our Representative.

Ja Ja will be at Accra in about three or four days' time. If put on shore there, he will at once become free, unless Johnston has tried him before a Consular Court for offences committed under the African Order in Council. Some instruction is therefore requisite to the Consular authorities there, and I would submit that they be asked to entertain Ja Ja there pending the investigation that must, in some shape or other, take place at Opobo.

I take it that the refusal of the Chief Officer at Sierra Leone to render assistance means that Captain Hand thought Johnston had sufficient force at Opobo in the shape of the two gun-boats, and not that he disapproved of the action taken, as his views were on the 12th ultimo in consonance with those of the Acting Consul.

September 21, 1887.

E. W. W.

Minutes by Sir P. Currie and the Marquis of Salisbury.

Removal of Ja Ja.

We have had no answer from Vice-Consul Johnston to the telegram asking for a report of the circumstances under which he arrested Ja Ja. Wyld points out in the accompanying Memorandum that he may have taken the telegram of approval sent to him on the 12th as referring to his telegram of the same day, in which he asked permission to remove Ja Ja.

It is impossible now to stop the operation, and the question is, what should be done with Ja Ja when he arrives at Accra. On landing he will become free if not detained by a Colonial Ordinance. Shall the Governor be instructed to endeavour to keep him at Accra by friendly means until some decision can be arrived at, founded on further information from Johnston?

September 22, 1887.

P. C.

Yes. Do not let us have another Zebehr.

September 23, 1887.

S.

Letters have come from Ja Ja and Messrs. Miller complaining of the proceedings of Vice-Consul Johnston.

P. C.

It is a mess. No promise ought to have been made to deputation.

I think it would be desirable that a naval officer of higher rank than Hand should go down to Opobo, if only to fulfil our pledge.

Ja Ja had better be kept at Accra, if necessary, by Consular Ordinance until the inquiry is over. He cannot be detained longer.

September 23, 1887.

S.

No. 155.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Acting Consul Johnston.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, September 21, 1887, 2 P.M.

YOUR telegram of to-day.

Report by telegraph precise circumstances under which you thought arrest necessary.

No. 156.

*Messrs. Miller, Brothers, and Co. to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 22.)**55, Waterloo Street, Glasgow, September 21, 1887.*

May it please your Lordship,

WE take the liberty of sending extract from a letter received to-day from our agent in Opobo, Mr. A. H. Turnbull, which explains the events in that river prior to the departure of the steam-ship "Congo."

We are without particulars as to the stoppage of trade on the 17th (18th) August, but it appears likely that the Consul, by stopping our trade with the Opobo natives, intended thereby to coerce the Eboes into trading with the amalgamated Company.

Relying on the assurances given us by Sir James Fergusson, we refrain from further remark.

We have, &c.

(Signed) ALEX. MILLER, BROTHERS, AND Co.

Inclosure in No. 156.

Extract from Letter from Mr. A. H. Turnbull.

A MEETING was held on the 5th August, at which Captain Hand, the Senior Naval officer on the station, was present, at the Consul's invitation.

Consul and Captain Hand had a private conversation with Ja Ja before the meeting commenced; here again they urged Ja Ja to break his Eboe oath, and on Ja Ja's refusal the Consul made him clearly understand that there were only two courses open to him, viz:—

1. To pay the expenses of the five amalgamated firms, two men-of-war, and Consul's expenses; or
2. Sign the document.

Ja Ja implored the Consul to let the matter rest till his Chiefs return, but this he decidedly refused.

This is the substance of the private interview.

At the meeting the Consul called on Ja Ja to sign the document, setting forth, "that if the white men were molested in any way in the markets, and it was proved to his (the Consul's) satisfaction that the offenders were Ja Ja's subjects, he (Ja Ja) made himself responsible for any fine inflicted by the Consul on such person, or if the Consul requested Ja Ja to punish them, he would do so;" also, "that Ja Ja would send a big Chief to Eboe to break the 'ju-ju' or Treaty that existed between himself and these market people."

Ja Ja got very loquacious at this point, and began to expound the law that existed in Bonny when he was a boy; this annoyed the Consul, who told him at once, "What he said was waste."* Ja Ja got so nettled at this that he signed the document instantly, and called on all present to witness he was compelled to do so.

I had a little conversation with Ja Ja before the meeting and after his private interview with the Consul, and advised him, if he intended signing the document, to sign it under protest, and then write to the Foreign Office and explain the mode of procedure the Consul employed to get him to sign the document.

Not signing the document under protest, Ja Ja wrote a letter to Consul: "He must clearly understand the document was signed under compulsion, and that he would send copy of letter to Foreign Office."

On the 7th August three Chiefs from here went up to the market with the Consul and agents and broke the Treaty; but the Consul cannot make anything of it; the interior people told him they could trade with whom they liked, but they would not trade with white men.

I have no idea what course the Consul will pursue, but things are not serious so far, and I have no doubt we can go on as now for six to seven months.

* This word indistinct.

No. 157.

Memorandum by Sir J. Pauncefote of Conversation with Baron Plessen.

BARON PLESSSEN called to make the following communication :—

The Imperial Government would be obliged if Mr. Johnston, Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul at Victoria, were instructed to communicate to the Imperial Government at Cameroons a list of all the British subjects living in Victoria, and to include in this list only those coloured persons that have immigrated into Victoria from other British territories, not those that have been born in Victoria.

They concur in the views as to nationality expressed in the instructions to Consul Johnston of the 29th July last, of which a copy was communicated to them.

J. P.

Foreign Office, September 22, 1887.

No. 158.

Acting Consul Johnston to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23, 3 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

Bonny, September 23, 1887, 8 A.M.

JA JA preparing escape strong place interior, where he built houses and stored supplies; able there throttle all Bonny and Opobo trade, and European building at markets unsafe. Instead of allowing him time prepared escape or resist, summoned him surrender at discretion, and promised him fair hearing of case by Secretary of State; being unprepared, surrendered; now with me on mail-steamer proceeding instantly Accra.

Ja Ja removal caused immediate reopening trade, immense relief everywhere, native war averted.

Though ill with overwork, collecting complete information which follows by steamer. Wire Accra.

No. 160.

Foreign Office to Acting Consul Johnston.

(No. 17.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 27, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your various despatches and telegrams relating to the action of King Ja Ja at Opobo, and you will have learnt from his Lordship's telegram of the 12th instant that your conduct in this matter has been approved by his Lordship.

I am now to state to you that his Lordship has decided, in view of the representations of Ja Ja's deputation, and the widespread interest that is taken in this question by the mercantile firms of Liverpool and Glasgow, to send a naval officer to Opobo to institute an investigation into all the circumstances connected with the various questions that have arisen at Opobo.

I am to transmit to you herewith a copy of a letter that Lord Salisbury has addressed to the Admiralty on the subject,* and upon the arrival of the naval officer at Opobo who is intrusted with this mission, you should render him every information and assistance that it may be in your power to afford.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 161.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Miller, Brothers, and Co.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, September 27, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, relative to the trade disputes at Opobo; and, in reply, I am to state to you that the investigation which it is intended to hold at Opobo will be carried out with as little delay as possible.

I am, &c.

(Signed) P. CURRIE.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 27, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to lay the following statement before you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and for such action as their Lordships are enabled to take in it.

It will be in the recollection of the Lords Commissioners, from various communications that have been forwarded from this Department, as well as from Reports that the Board have from time to time been furnished with by the naval officers stationed on the West Coast of Africa, that troubles have arisen at Opobo between Ja Ja, the Chief of that place, and the British traders who have business connections in that district. The various telegrams and despatches recently received from Mr. Johnston, Acting British Consul at Old Calabar, and who is at present at Opobo, as well as the communications addressed to this Department by the African Association of Liverpool, Messrs. Miller, Brothers, of Glasgow, and from Ja Ja and other Chiefs of Opobo, copies of all of which are herewith inclosed,* show that the disputes alluded to have now entered into an acute phase and call for immediate investigation and remedy.

Although it is obvious that some action is requisite, the merits of the claims of the respective parties in this quarrel are not altogether clear. On the one hand, it is alleged by the African Association that King Ja Ja, by the imposition of "ju-ju" and by other acts of intimidation, is in the habit of preventing their agents from carrying on legitimate trade with native tribes beyond Ja Ja's rightful jurisdiction; on the other hand, this contention is combated by Messrs. Miller, Brothers, of Glasgow, who appear to enjoy a monopoly of trade with Ja Ja, and who, to a certain extent, act as his agents; while, again, the charge is denied by the deputation of African Chiefs who have arrived in England in Ja Ja's interest, and who were received at this Office on the 13th instant.

Whether the charge is a well-founded one, or the reverse, can probably only be ascertained by an investigation on the spot, but it appears to Lord Salisbury that such an inquiry must be held by one of the naval officers stationed on the West African Station, and he is strengthened in that conviction by the consideration that, as certain charges have been brought against the Consular Body by Messrs. Miller, Brothers, and Ja Ja himself, an inquiry conducted by an officer of Her Majesty's Consular Service might not be considered by the parties interested as a perfectly impartial and unbiassed one.

Under these circumstances, Lord Salisbury trusts that the Admiralty will be able to send an officer to Opobo for the purpose above indicated.

I am further to point out to you, for the guidance of the officer who may be sent, that Lord Rosebery's letter of the 16th June, 1886, lays down that the Treaty of 1873, concluded between Comodore Commerell and Consul Livingstone on the one hand, and Ja Ja on the other, has been rendered nugatory by Ja Ja's own acts, and that it is consequently superseded by the Treaty of Protectorate of the 19th December, 1884, copy of which is herewith inclosed. In this Treaty the Article which chiefly bears upon the points at issue is the Vth, in which Ja Ja engages to act upon the advice of the Consular Representative in matters relating to the administration of justice, the development of the resources of the country, the interests of commerce, or in any other matters in relation to peace, order, and good government, and the general progress of civilization.

It must, however, be borne in mind that Ja Ja refused to agree to Article VI of this Treaty when it was negotiated, and it may be consequently inferred that he is within his rights in denying free trade to British subjects within his actual territory. That privilege, however, does not warrant him in barring the trade to the inland districts beyond his own jurisdiction, such as Ohombela is alleged to be. To this point the inquiry should be specially addressed.

The officer who may be intrusted with this mission should, therefore, in Lord Salisbury's opinion, be instructed that if he finds that there is evidence of an attempt on the part of Ja Ja to block the highway, he should be at liberty to inflict whatever punishment he may deem right; but, on the other hand, should Ja Ja's action have been confined to excluding trade from territories which are under his control, negotiations should be entered into with a view to securing the most favourable terms for British traders that can be obtained. The officer should, moreover, be told that in all matters

* Nos. 80, 81, 99, 102, 103, 107, 116, 117, 119, 120, 121, 128, 130, 134, 137, 138, and 142.

he should act upon his own judgment, and, if in doubt, should refer to the officer commanding the station or by telegraph to your Department.

I am also to transmit a copy of a despatch which has been addressed to Acting Consul Johnston,* instructing him to furnish the naval officer intrusted with this mission all assistance and information that he can possibly afford him.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 163.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 27, 1887.

WITH reference to the preceding letter from this Department of to-day's date, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copies of telegrams, as marked in the margin,† received from Acting Consul Johnston, stating that he has been compelled, by force of circumstances, to remove Ja Ja to Accra.

I am also to transmit a copy of a letter that Lord Salisbury has caused to be addressed to the Colonial Office,‡ requesting that the authorities at Accra may be instructed to detain the above-mentioned Chief until the proposed inquiry is held. This investigation, I am to add, should, in Lord Salisbury's opinion, be at once proceeded with; and I am to request you, in laying this letter before the Board, to inquire whether an officer of any higher rank than the Captain of any of the vessels now on the West Coast could be intrusted with this important duty.

I am also to forward, for their Lordships' information, copies of further correspondence that has been received upon this question.§

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 164.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 27, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of the Colonial Office letter of the 19th instant, forwarding a telegram from the Governor of the Gold Coast stating that, at the request of Mr. Johnston, the Acting British Consul at Old Calabar, his Excellency proposed, pending further instructions, to detain the Envoys Ja Ja had sent to England, and who were returning to the West Coast on board the steam-ship "Opobo."

I now transmit to you, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, copies of two telegrams, as marked in the margin,† received from Acting Consul Johnston, from which it will be seen that he has removed Ja Ja himself from Opobo, and is proceeding with him on board a mail-packet to Accra.

In view of the state of affairs in the markets in the vicinity of Opobo, and the disputes that have arisen between the British traders and Ja Ja, Lord Salisbury has requested the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send a naval officer to Opobo to investigate the various points at issue; and his Lordship is of opinion that, as Ja Ja has been removed to Accra, he should be detained in that place until the inquiry, which will be carried out with all possible dispatch, is held. To this end I am to request you, in laying this letter before Sir H. Holland, to move him to be good enough to issue telegraphic instructions to the Colonial authorities at Accra to detain Ja Ja at that town, and if this cannot be effected by friendly means, a Colonial or local Ordinance should be at once passed to enable them to do so.

A further letter will be addressed to you with respect to the detention of Ja Ja's Envoys.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

* No. 160.

† Nos. 153 and 158.
§ Nos. 150, 151, 152, 156, and 161.

‡ No. 164.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received September 29.)

Sir,

Admiralty, September 26, 1887.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, extract of a letter from Captain Hand, of Her Majesty's ship "Royalist," dated the 13th August last, at Fernando Po, relative to the state of affairs on the West African Coast, and reporting the proceedings of Her Majesty's ships.

A similar letter has been addressed to the Colonial Office.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 165.

Captain Hand to Admiralty.

(Extract.)

"Royalist," at Fernando Po, August 13, 1887.

ON the 1st instant the "Alecto" returned from Bonny with a telegram from the Admiralty ordering a ship to Lagos. I accordingly dispatched the "Acorn" to that place the same evening.

The "Goshawk" returned from the Opobo River on the 29th ultimo, bringing mails and a letter (Inclosure 2) from Mr. Johnston, Acting Consul, requesting me to proceed to Opobo; after coaling the "Goshawk," I sent that vessel back and proceeded myself in the "Alecto" on the 1st instant, in accordance with the Acting Consul's request.

I put in at Bonny on the 2nd instant, *en route* to Opobo, to telegraph to the Governor of Lagos, as I had quite recently heard from him that all was quiet in that Colony, I was inclined to believe the Admiralty order referred to the past; and the reply I received, and also the telegram from Commander Atkinson, that a ship was not wanted at Lagos, seemed to confirm that belief, and I therefore ordered the "Acorn" back to Fernando Po; I am now sending her on to the Cape, but I have since heard from a private steamer that a French man-of-war was passed standing for Lagos, which may account for the telegraphic instructions. I am now proceeding there in "Royalist."

I arrived in Opobo on the 3rd. Nothing fresh has transpired. On the morning of the 4th Ja Ja and all his Chiefs called on me, and I returned his visit the same afternoon, during which he presented me with two elephant tusks and a leopard skin, which he requested me to forward to Her Majesty.

Ja Ja so frequently referred to the question raised by the Consul, in public, that as I had no intention of discussing the matter with him, I asked for a private interview, when I explained that I would listen to what he wished to say, but I could express no opinion. He then produced a copy of a document Mr. Johnston afterwards told me he had not heard of before, purporting to be a semi-official communication from Mr. Consul Hewett, dated the 1st July, 1885, in which it was stated that the Queen had no intention when making the Protectorate Treaty of taking from him his territory or his markets, and also a copy of that Treaty, with Article VI cancelled, and stated that the markets which the traders wished to go were his, and that as by the Treaty he had complete control over them, he declined to throw them open to all comers.

The question is simply this: By the Protectorate Treaty all markets are thrown open, but Ja Ja from the first had evidently objected to this arrangement, hence I presume the cause for the semi-official letter of Mr. Consul Hewett afore-mentioned.

The Earl of Rosebery, in a letter dated the 16th June, 1886, wrote:—

"It is charged against you that you have exacted money from European traders, and have barred their access to markets outside your own territories, and that you have done this simply for the purpose of swelling your own revenue.

"Your defence is that the traders paid voluntarily the sums exacted by you, and that you rest your prohibition against their approach to the interior markets upon the Treaty of 1873.

"As regards the first point the evidence of the traders is conclusive. They state almost unanimously that they objected to the payments. As regards the second point I have to observe that whilst persistently disregarding the clauses of the Treaty which imposed obligations on you, you appeal to those which you deem to be favourable to your

own interests. The Treaty of 1873 has been rendered nugatory by your own acts. It is suspended by the Treaty of the Protectorate, and can henceforth be appealed to by neither party.

"Consul Hewett was right in warning you that you will be held responsible for any interference on your part with traders going to markets outside your territories."

In 1886 Ja Ja attempted to take possession of the market at Essene, but was beaten off, and about the same time took possession of Ohombela, deposing the reigning Chief, and installing one of his own Chiefs in his place. It is thus evident that both these markets were not included in Ja Ja's territory when he signed the Protectorate Treaty in 1885.

The whole question would probably have now been finally settled had Mr. Consul Hewett carried out the good intentions I mentioned he proposed executing in my letter of the 15th September, 1886, and for which the "Alecto," was placed at his disposal.

On the 5th, in accordance with request contained in Inclosure 3, I attended a palaver held at the house of the agent for Messrs. Harrison and Co. Inclosure 4 gives full details of this meeting. Before assembling I, with Mr. Johnston, had a private interview with Ja Ja, at which he acknowledged to all I have herein mentioned.

With regard to the markets, he stated he would give up all claim to Essene, and that he would sign the Consul's Agreement under protest. The palaver was then held.

There was some little difficulty, as will be seen by Inclosures 5, 6, and 7, in persuading Ja Ja to conform to the Consul's request as regards the Chief who was to accompany us to Ohombela to break the "ju-ju"; but, having given in at 1 P.M. on the 7th instant, I started with the Consul in "Alecto," with "Goshawk" in company, and the traders in their launches; anchored the latter vessel about 8 miles up the river, and the former about 20 miles, remaining with the "Alecto" for the night.

At daylight on the 8th we proceeded in the launches and "Alecto's" steam-cutter up the river, anchoring off the creek leading to Ohombela at 8:30 A.M., and sending an interpreter ahead to convene a meeting of the Chiefs, continued our progress in the gigs with "Alecto's" cutter, arriving at that town about 11:30 A.M.

We landed, and remained until 2 P.M., but no Chiefs appeared, so we gave Ja Ja's Chiefs until noon the following day to bring certain Chiefs named Ekeki Notchi, Baba, Watihika, and Okoranchi to the boats, and, as the clock struck 12 on the 9th, the Head Chief appeared, the others we required soon following.

In our presence the "ju-ju" was then broken by Ogolo, Ja Ja's principal Chief. The Consul then stated he would return in a few days to Ohombela with the Protectorate Treaty for the Chiefs to sign.

It will be better for me to defer making any further remarks on this question until I have the result of the Consul's next visit, but I cannot believe that these proceedings will prove to be a final solution; another disturbing factor is the position taken by the firm of Miller, Brothers, who at present side with Ja Ja, and have been taking all his oil.

We returned to the traders' settlement on the evening of the 9th with "Goshawk" and "Alecto," and on the 10th I left in "Alecto" for this place, arriving the same evening. I found the "Acorn" here, and send her to the Cape with this letter on the 13th.

A tracing of the River Opobo, showing position of Ohombela and Essene, accompanies this.

The "Goshawk" remains for the present with the Consul.

The oil trade in the Old Calabar, Cameroons, and Brass Rivers is flourishing, in Benin River it is improving, and in Opobo there is little business except by the one firm of Miller, Brothers.

I inclose a correspondence between myself and the Acting Consul relative to his tour round his district.

The weather up to the last few days has been very unseasonable, but very fine and pleasant, and the health of the ship's company has been very good in consequence.

Inclosure 2 in No. 165.

Acting Consul Johnston to Captain Hand.

(Extract.)

Opobo River, July 28, 1887.

THE following is a succinct account of what I have hitherto done at Opobo:—

We arrived at this river on Wednesday morning, and immediately I landed I wrote and sent a summons to Ja Ja to appear at a meeting convened by me on board Her

Majesty's ship "Goshawk" at 11 A.M. on the morning of the 28th (to-day). He sent down a reply to say he was sick and could not attend. Accordingly I requested Surgeon Moore, of the "Goshawk," and Dr. Hanley, from on shore, to visit Ja Ja and report on the state of his health, as to whether it was or was not dangerous to his health for him to leave his house and attend a meeting. They returned, reporting that Ja Ja was quite able to attend, and that his ailments, if any, were of a trifling nature. Accordingly, when at 11 o'clock a deputation of Ja Ja's sons and Chiefs waited on me with excuses as to their King's inability to appear before me on account of his great sickness, I dismissed them, stating that I was fully satisfied by the doctors' reports that Ja Ja was quite well enough to attend the meeting. I further put into their hands an ultimatum: If Ja Ja did not come to see me and to answer the charges brought against him by 4 o'clock in the afternoon, the "Goshawk" would leave for Fernando Po that same evening, and I would lay the matter before the Senior Officer of the division. By 2 o'clock Ja Ja was down the river, first calling at "Goshawk," and then, finding I was on shore, at Harrison's beach. Here the palaver was held, as there was more accommodation for the large attendance than on board the "Goshawk." After stating the various complaints which had been made against Ja Ja and his people by certain of the agents, and having examined two or three witnesses in support of these complaints, I called upon Ja Ja for his defence. He denied and disputed certain particulars of no great importance, but this main point he admitted, that he had at different times—in some cases years, in others months, before the movement of the white traders to the markets—caused the people of the interior to "chop ju-ju" (swear a solemn oath) that they would trade exclusively and solely with him and his people; he also admitted that, in spite of the Berlin Conference, the Protectorate Treaty, and divers admonitions from Foreign Secretaries and Consuls, he had not sent to "break the ju-ju," and thus release the people from their oaths and permit them to trade with all comers.

This was an important admission, that all the other matters about the non-payment of fines and the alleged threats are comparatively trifling. I therefore informed Ja Ja that if he would agree to two conditions I would consider the "palaver" at an end, would not call you to the river, and would (as I have power to do) repay to him the large fine conditionally remitted by Lord Rosebery (minus the unpaid fines and doctors' fees). These two conditions were—

1. Ja Ja is to sign an Agreement that if any of his people are proved to have molested British subjects trading at the markets, or to have placed obstacles in the way of free trade at the said markets, these people are, on conviction before the Consul, to be severely punished, and Ja Ja to be responsible for the payment of their fines.

2. Ja Ja is to send, not later than Saturday, the 30th July, a big Chief (such as Ogolo) to accompany Acting Consul Johnston to the markets, and the big Chief is there, in Acting Consul Johnston's presence and in Ja Ja's name, to "break the ju-ju" which prevents them from trading with the white men, and announce to the Chiefs and people Ja Ja's adhesion to the principle of free trade.

I have given him (Ja Ja) till Friday morning, at 10 A.M., to send in his adhesion. If this is not sent, then the "Goshawk" will leave, and you will receive this letter. Under these conditions, I would ask you to come over from Fernando Po as speedily as possible, and take measures for the enforcement of my authority. I am of opinion that it would need little more than the presence of a second gun-boat and the weight of your words to frighten Ja Ja into an agreement with these conditions.

Inclosure 3 in No. 165.

Acting Consul Johnston to Captain Hand.

Sir,

Messrs. Harrison's Factory, Opobo River, August 5, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that a meeting with King Ja Ja will be held at 11 o'clock precisely, and have the honour to request you to attend.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 165.

Palaver at Opobo, August 5, 1887.

MR. JOHNSTON, Acting Consul, read over the following conditions, which King Ja Ja agreed to sign, viz. :—

"1. If any of my people is proved to have molested British subjects trading at the markets, or to have placed obstacles in the way of free trade at the said markets, this person is, on conviction before the Consul, to be severely punished, and I hold myself responsible for the payment of any fine inflicted on him.

"2. I agree to send, not later than the 7th August, 1887, a big Chief to accompany Acting Consul Johnston's presence and, in my name, "break the ju-ju," which prevents the people of the interior from trading with the white men, and I shall announce to the Chiefs and peoples my adherence to the principle of free trade.

"I further agree never at any time, or at any place, to impose, or cause to be imposed, any restriction whatever on free trade, either by exacting oaths, concluding Agreements, or levying duties, without the permission of Her Majesty's Government."

The above conditions were signed by Ja Ja and witnessed by Captain Hand (the Senior Officer), Mr. H. H. Johnston, Acting Consul, Mr. Samuel B. Hall, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, Opobo, Lieutenant and Commander John H. Pelly, of Her Majesty's ship "Goshawk," and Mr. A. H. Turnbull, representing the firm of Messrs. Miller and Co.

Before signing, Mr. Johnston explained that for the present, until further instructions arrived from England, he waived the right of the British merchants to trade in the Opobo markets, that is to say, in those markets which were situated in the territory of Opobo. This territory he defined as follows :—

The limit of Ja Ja's country on the west is the left bank of the Adoni River from the sea to a point 10 miles from the mouth of the river. Thence the boundary strikes east-north-east across the lower portion of the Ogoni country to the Opobo River, which it reaches at a point opposite the mouth of the Esene Creek.

Crossing the Opobo River, the boundary follows the left bank of the Esene Creek for a distance of 8 miles; thence it is drawn in a straight line to a point on the sea-shore 8 miles distant eastward from East Point, and then, turning westward, it follows the sea-coast to the left bank of the Adoni River.

Mr. Johnston stated that outside the limit of Ja Ja's territory (as above defined), and in all countries included in the British Protectorate of the Oil Rivers, and not within the boundaries of the Royal Niger Company's property, he could not recognize any right on the part of Ja Ja or of any other person to establish a monopoly or to interfere with free trade, and that consequently Ohumbila, Ozumena, and Esene were in the British Protectorate; but outside the territories of Ja Ja and of the Royal Niger Company he should insist on the trade at these markets being free to all men, black and white alike, and that, therefore, he called upon Ja Ja to remove all impediments he had hitherto placed in the way of white men who wished to trade at their [*sic*] places.

King Ja Ja made some remarks relative to former actions on the part of the Government, which bore but little relation to the matter under discussion, after which he signed the written Agreement, stating that he should consider he was acting under compulsion.

The palaver then ended.

Inclosure 5 in No. 165.

Acting Consul Johnston to Captain Hand.

(Extract.)

Opobo, August 7, 1887.

SUBSEQUENT to our conversation of yesterday evening, I wrote to Ja Ja officially, informing him that Ogolo (the Head Chief) must be ready at noon to-day to accompany me to Ohombela, and that he would have to travel in a steam-launch and not in his own canoe.

Inclosed is the reply he sends me, in which he completely evades my orders. Saturday and William Toby are nobodies compared to Ogolo, who is the coming King. Besides, it was for Ogolo I originally stipulated. Will you therefore insist to Ja Ja on the necessity of his conforming to my request? If you wrote him a line expressing your determination to support my authority, I am sure Mr. Ogolo would proceed to pack his trunks and make ready.

Inclosure 6 in No. 165.

King Ja Ja to Acting Consul Johnston.

Sir,

Opobo Town, August 7, 1887.

YOURS of to-day's date received. In reply thereto, I beg to state that two of my Chiefs, Saturday and William Toby, will accompany you at the time appointed and in their own canoe to Ohombela.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JA JA, King of Opobo

Inclosure 7 in No. 165.

King Ja Ja to Captain Hand.

Dear Sir,

Opobo River, August 7, 1887.

IN reply to yours of to-day's date, I have sent in to the Acting Consul on the 5th instant a letter which he did not reply to, on the grounds of the documents signed by me were done against my will, but as all and everything will go before the Foreign Minister, I do not object but grant that Ogolo and the two other Chiefs go to Ohombela as requested by the Consul, and their canoe follow them.

Yours, &c.

(Signed) JA JA, King of Opobo.

No. 166.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received September 29.)

Sir,

Admiralty, September 28, 1887.

I HAVE laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of the 27th instant, containing a request that a naval officer may be directed to proceed to Opobo for the purpose of instituting an inquiry into the dispute between King Ja Ja and certain British traders.

2. In regard to the request that the officer to be intrusted with this important duty may be of higher rank than any officer now on the West Coast of Africa, my Lords desire me to state, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, that the Senior Officer at present on the coast is Captain Hand, of Her Majesty's ship "Royalist," and that the only naval officer senior to him on the station is the Commander-in-chief, who is now visiting the ports to the east of the Cape of Good Hope, and may be expected to arrive at Simon's Bay about the first week in October.

3. It appears to my Lords that it will certainly be necessary for the officer who is to conduct the inquiry to be furnished with the fullest particulars of the matter to be inquired into, and as this could not be thoroughly explained in a telegram, it will be necessary to forward the papers to the West Coast.

4. Their Lordships would therefore propose (unless in the opinion of the Marquis of Salisbury it is absolutely necessary that the inquiry should be conducted by the Commander-in-chief) that the necessary papers should be forwarded to Captain Hand, with orders to hold a full and searching inquiry into the whole matter as soon as possible, and to report the result.

5. If, however, Lord Salisbury considers the case to be of such importance as to render it desirable that the Commander-in-chief should conduct the inquiry, my Lords will send the necessary orders by telegram directing him to proceed to the West Coast for the purpose, the necessary papers being forwarded in the meantime to Captain Hand, with instructions to communicate with the Commander-in-chief on his arrival and to hand over the papers.

6. My Lords desire to add that if it is decided that the Commander-in-chief is to be ordered to proceed to Fernando Po or Accra from the Cape for this purpose, the flag-ship will probably be obliged to coal at St. Helena *en route*, thus making the distance to be travelled about 3,680 miles.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

No. 167.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 29.)

Sir,

Downing Street, September 29, 1887.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir H. Holland to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th instant, requesting that a telegram may be sent to the Officer administering the Government of the Gold Coast Colony, instructing him to detain the Chief Ja Ja, whom Acting Consul Johnston is taking up to Accra.

In reply, I am to inclose a copy of a telegram which has been sent to Colonel White accordingly, and I am to request you to inform the Marquis of Salisbury that Sir H. Holland, having no knowledge of the circumstances under which Ja Ja has been deported from Opobo, has given the desired instructions upon his Lordship's authority and responsibility.

I am, &c.

(Signed) R. H. MEADE.

Inclosure in No. 167.

Sir H. Holland to Colonel White.

(Telegraphic.)

Accra, September 27, 1887.

SECRETARY of State for Foreign Affairs desires detention of Ja Ja, whom Consul is bringing to Accra, until result of inquiry into his proceedings at Opobo. If this cannot be effected by friendly action, Ordinance in accordance with precedent should be passed at once.

No. 168.

Foreign Office to Acting Consul Johnston.

(No. 18.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 30, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acquaint you that the deputation sent by Ja Ja, and which consisted of the Chiefs Cookey Gam, Shoo Peterside, Albert Ja Ja, and Sunday Ja Ja, were received at this Office on the 13th instant by Sir James Fergusson.

The deputation was accompanied by Mr. George Miller, of Glasgow, the head of the firm of Miller, Brothers, and Co., and Mr. Farquhar, Messrs. Miller's agent, who had recently returned from Opobo.

Mr. Miller, having been appointed spokesman for the deputation, stated that Ja Ja had sent the Chiefs to England for the purpose of enlisting Lord Salisbury's sympathy with the protest which Ja Ja had addressed to Her Majesty's Government against "his markets" being taken away from him, which markets had been, Mr. Miller alleged, granted to Ja Ja by Consul Livingstone in 1873, such grant being confirmed by Consul Hewett in his letter to the above-mentioned Chief of the 1st July, 1884.

Sir James Fergusson stated that he thought it would be convenient if the discussion could be limited to a date not later than Lord Rosebery's letter of the 16th June, 1886, which laid down that Ja Ja's own acts had abrogated the Treaty concluded by Consul Livingstone, and warned him not to interfere with British trade. The questions at issue appeared to Sir James Fergusson to be whether Ja Ja had disregarded that warning, whether, by the imposition of "ju-ju" on the up-river tribes, he had prevented them from carrying on trade with the British traders, and whether Ahombebe and the other markets claimed by Ja Ja were virtually his or not.

With regard to the last point, Mr. Miller admitted that he believed that Ahombebe was not within Ja Ja's territory, but that nevertheless that Chief possessed great indirect influence there. Neither he nor Mr. Farquhar, it was asserted, had heard anything of the recent measures that Ja Ja was alleged to have adopted at that place, such as have been reported in the various telegrams and despatches recently received from you.

After certain disjointed and incoherent utterances from Cookey Gam, Sir James Fergusson informed the deputation that Lord Salisbury had decided that a naval officer should hold an investigation at Opobo into the various features of the question, and this

solution of the matter appeared to be acquiesced in by the deputation, which then withdrew.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 169.

The African Association, Liverpool, to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 1.)

My Lord, 19, Castle Street, Liverpool, September 28, 1887.

FROM telegraphic advices received by this Association from the Opobo Court of Commerce, we are informed that Ja Ja has surrendered to the authorities on the station, and that trade is reopened.

This Association unanimously approves the decisive action thus taken by Her Majesty's officers at Opobo, and prays your Lordship will approve of them in the interests of British trade generally upon the West Coast of Africa. Had not this prompt course been adopted, our advices leave no doubt that prolonged bloodshed and disturbance must have arisen, as Ja Ja was fortifying positions in the interior, far beyond his territory, and otherwise preparing to actively frustrate the opening up of trade with the interior markets.

We respectfully urge upon Her Majesty's Government the importance, in order to a thorough establishment of the new trade connections with the interior, of securing that Ja Ja's removal shall be made sufficiently prolonged, and that he be placed at some station much further distant than Accra, which we presume to have been only temporarily selected by the officials whilst waiting instructions from home.

I have, &c.
(On behalf of the African Association).
(Signed) T. STANLEY ROGERSON, *Chairman.*

No. 170.

Acting Consul Johnston to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 1, 1.15 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

October 1, 1887, 11.30 A.M.

LANDED Ja Ja Accra; arranged suitable accommodation. Return to-morrow Opobo.

No. 171.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.**

Foreign Office, October 1, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Acting Consul Johnston's telegram of October 1, 1887: *ante*, No. 170.]

No. 172.

Foreign Office to Acting Consul Johnston.

(No. 19.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 1, 1887.

THE German Government have expressed a wish that you should furnish the Governor of the Cameroons with a list of all British subjects living at Victoria, and further, that this document should include only those coloured persons who have immigrated to Victoria, and not those born in that place.

I am accordingly directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to instruct you to furnish the Government of the Cameroons with the list in question.

I am to add that the German Government have expressed their concurrence in the

* Also to Colonial Office.

views on the question of nationality which are expressed in the despatch addressed to you from this Department No. 3 of the 29th July last.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 173.

Messrs. Couper, Johnstone, and Co. (Limited) to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 3.)

My Lord,

58, Bath Street, Glasgow, October 1, 1887.

WE have the honour to acknowledge your letter of the 15th ultimo, informing us that a naval officer was about to proceed to Opobo to hold a thorough investigation into all the circumstances connected with that river.

Since then we are advised by cable that Ja Ja has surrendered, and has been removed by Vice-Consul Johnstone to Accra. We have no doubt that he has been found to be connected with the armed opposition which threatened our advance to the upper markets of the river, and having disregarded the injunctions of Lord Rosebery's letter of the 16th June, 1886, he has since found himself so situated that he had to surrender to the Consul.

We hope now that he will not be permitted to exercise any influence in the Opobo River, which we fear his residence at so near a place as Accra would otherwise give him ample facilities for doing. In this way the Chiefs in the river would come thoroughly to understand that they must all pay respect to the Treaties made with the British Government, and that they cannot with impunity disregard the injunctions of Her Majesty's Consul, whose decided action, after long forbearance, will no doubt re-establish peace and order.

We are, &c.
(For Couper, Johnstone, and Co., Limited),
(Signed) WILLIAM COUPER, Manager.

No. 174.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 3.)

Sir,

Downing Street, October 3, 1887.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, with reference to previous correspondence, a copy of a telegram from the Officer administering the Government of the Gold Coast Colony, reporting the arrival of King Ja Ja at Accra, and his entertainment there.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 174.

Colonel White to Sir H. Holland.

(Telegraphic.)

Accra, October 1, 1887.

REFERRING to your telegram of 27th September, Consul arrived yesterday. I entertained person named* on friendly terms yesterday evening.

No necessity for Ordinance at present, but at the same time precautions necessary; altered circumstances may arise at any moment.

No. 175.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Scott.

(No. 229. Africa.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 3, 1887.

BARON VON PLESSEN called on the 22nd ultimo to state that the Imperial Government would be obliged if Mr. Johnston, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at the

* Ja Ja.

Cameroons, could be instructed to communicate to the German Government at that place, a list of all British subjects living at Victoria, and to draw up that document in such a manner that only those coloured persons who have immigrated to Victoria from other British territories should be included in it, and not those born in Victoria.

I have to add that Baron Plessen at the same time informed me that the Imperial Government concurred in the views as to nationality expressed in the instructions addressed to Vice-Consul Johnston on the 29th July last, copy of which was communicated to you in my despatch No. 194, Africa, of the 4th ultimo.

I have further to request you to inform the German Government that the requisite instructions will be sent to Vice-Consul Johnston with regard to the list required by the Governor of the Cameroons.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 176.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 3, 1887.

THE Marquis of Salisbury has had under his consideration your letter of the 28th ultimo, regarding the rank of the naval officer who should hold the inquiry into the conduct of King Ja Ja and the state of affairs at Opobo. I am now directed by his Lordship to request that you will state to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, in reply, that now that Ja Ja has been removed from Opobo, the necessity for an immediate inquiry no longer exists, and that, in view of the fact that Captain Hand has already taken a share in the proceedings which ended in Ja Ja's removal, it is more than ever desirable that the investigation should be conducted by the Commander-in-chief, whose Report would be very valuable.

Lord Salisbury would therefore be glad if instructions were sent to the Commander-in-chief as indicated in the fifth paragraph of your letter under reply, and any further papers which it may be thought desirable to furnish him with can then be forwarded in time to meet him on his arrival.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 177.

Messrs. Miller, Brothers, to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

May it please your Lordship, 55, Waterloo Street, Glasgow, October 3, 1887.

WE have further to report that by a telegram from Opobo, dated the 27th September, we received information that the Consul had asked Ja Ja to proceed to Accra in order that the palaver might be judged there, which he accordingly agreed to do.

From rumours which have been circulating in Liverpool for some days, and from information given in the public prints, we fear Ja Ja has been persuaded to go to Accra under pretence that the inquiry was to be conducted there.

We do not believe the malicious statements appearing in the public prints, and which seem to be written with the intention of prejudicing Ja Ja's case.

We take the liberty of suggesting whether it is right for the inquiry to proceed in the absence of Ja Ja and of those Chiefs who lately visited the Foreign Office, while the interested parties on the other side, and who are opposed to Ja Ja, are present in the river.

Your Lordship may see fit to expedite the matter by calling the authorities at Accra to send Ja Ja back to Opobo without delay.

We have, &c.
(Signed) ALEX. MILLER, BROTHERS, AND Co.

No. 178.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Acting Consul Johnston.

(No. 20.)

Foreign Office, October 4, 1887.[Transmits Ja Ja's letter of August 12, 1887: *ante*, No. 152.]

No. 179.

Foreign Office to Acting Consul Johnston.

(No. 21.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 4, 1887.

WITH reference to your telegrams of the 23rd ultimo and 1st instant, relative to the deportation of Ja Ja from Opobo to Accra, and to the despatch from this Office No. 17 of the 27th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to state to you that the inquiry into the whole question will be intrusted to the Admiral commanding-in-chief on the West Coast of Africa, and will therefore be delayed till he can arrive at Accra from the Cape.

I am, &c.

(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 180.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 4, 1887.

WITH reference to your letter of the 19th ultimo, respecting the detention at Accra of the Envoys and son of King Ja Ja of Opobo, and the subsequent correspondence relative to the detention of King Ja Ja himself, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to request that you will state to the Secretary of State for the Colonies that he is unable, from the information in his possession, to form an opinion as to whether it will be necessary that the King's Envoys and son should be detained. He thinks the Administrator of the Gold Coast Colony might be authorized by telegraph to use his own discretion in the matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 181.

Messrs. Miller, Brother, and Co. to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

May it please your Lordship,

55, Waterloo Street, Glasgow, October 4, 1887.

WE have the honour to inclose for your Lordship's perusal extract of a letter received this morning from our agent, Mr. A. H. Turnbull, at Opobo, with copy of the Agreement signed by Ja Ja at the meeting held on the 5th August, copy of the Consul's notice prohibiting trade, and subsequent correspondence between the Consul and our agent.

We do not think it necessary to make any remarks regarding those inclosures, as we are content to await the result of the investigation which is to take place, feeling assured that the Consul's statements will not be borne out by evidence.

We very much regret that Ja Ja was removed from Opobo previous to the inquiry being held, especially as the deputation which had an interview at the Foreign Office will not have arrived, and as the agents of the other English firms who are opposed to Ja Ja will be present in the river.

We have, &c.

(Signed) ALEX. MILLER, BROTHER, AND Co.

Inclosure in No. 181.

Extract from a Letter received on October 4, 1887, from Mr. A. H. Turnbull, Messrs. Miller, Brother, and Co.'s Agent at Opobo, dated August 29, 1887.

I INCLOSE you copies of correspondence between Consul and myself; also his original letters in case you require them to act upon. I hold our trade has been most unjustly stopped, and that we should have some redress under the circumstances.

We have no palaver with the Government or the officials; no palaver with the interior people or the natives of Opobo; and yet we are coolly told we are not allowed to trade. This seems very hard, and I think the Consul has stepped beyond his rights when he sent this letter.

Copy of Ja Ja's Agreement inclosed. This Agreement Ja Ja has fulfilled. However unwillingly done, it has been done; and since stoppage of trade Ja Ja has written Consul twice, asking him (Consul) to hold to his Agreement and let trade be resumed, but Consul refused.

The Consul has demanded Ja Ja to bring one Ekike down from the interior to him to be examined. Consul says he has been made King of Ohombela at Ja Ja's instigation, and Ja Ja has replied to Consul's letter refusing to bring Ekike down, on the plea that he, Ekike, is not Ja Ja's slave, neither is he a native of Opobo, and if Ja Ja attempted to bring him down by force it would only bring war with Ohombela. All these are Ja Ja's reasons for not complying with Consul's demands; but the Consul, as usual, won't hear any of his excuses or answers in justification of his actions, but simply writes, bring Ekike down—take away the obstacles you place in Ohombela to prevent white men trading—then, and only then, will the restrictions be taken off your trade. (These are pure assertions of the Consul's; he has not furnished any proof of them as requested by Ja Ja.)

I considered it best to intimate to the Consul that I intended resuming trade, as our beach has been watched since the stoppage by the sailors from the man-of-war "Goshawk," and I suspected the canoes would be stopped. However, these letters inclosed give you all necessary particulars of the palaver, and I trust to have a cablegram from you soon anent the deputation. I expect trade will be resumed shortly. I will cable you at once when it is.

I, Ja Ja, King of Opobo, do hereby agree to the following conditions:—

1. If any one of my people is proved to have molested British subjects trading at the markets, or to have placed obstacles in the way of free trade at the interior markets, this person is, on conviction before the Consul, to be severely punished, and I shall hold myself responsible for the payment of any fine inflicted on him.

2. I agree to send not later than the 7th August, 1887, a big Chief to accompany Acting Consul Johnston to the markets, and the big Chief shall there, in presence of Acting Consul Johnston and in my name, break the "ju ju," which prevents the people of the interior from trading with the white men, and shall announce to the Chiefs and people my adherence to the principles of free trade.

I further agree never at any time to impose or cause to be imposed any restrictions whatsoever on free trade, either by exacting oaths, concluding Agreements, or levying duties without the permission of Her Majesty's Government.

(Signed) JA JA.

Witnesses:

(Signed) Captain HAND, H.M.S. "Royalist."
 Captain PELLY, H.M.S. "Goshawk."
 SAM. B. HALL, Chairman, Court of Commerce.
 A. H. TURNBULL.

Above is copy of Agreement signed by Ja Ja at the meeting held on the 5th August, 1887.

Opobo, August 18, 1887.

Notice is hereby given that from this date all trade or commercial transactions whatsoever are prohibited between King Ja Ja and his people, the Chiefs of Ohombela and their people, and British and British-protected subjects, until the aforementioned King

Ja Ja and the Chiefs of Ohombela have completely fulfilled the promise and agreement made by them to Her Britannic Majesty's Representative.

Any person infringing this order will be liable to a fine of 500*l*.

Above is copy of notice of prohibition of trade by Acting Consul Johnston, issued on the 18th August, 1887.

Copy of Letter sent by Messrs. Miller, Brother, and Co.'s Agent to Acting Consul Johnston.

Sir,

Opobo, August 18, 1887.

In reference to your proclamation of to-day's date, prohibiting trade with the natives of Opobo, I beg to submit to you the inclosed claim for loss my principals will sustain through this cause.

Why should I be prohibited from peacefully trading?

I look to you for redress in this matter, and, if you think it necessary to satisfy yourself as regards the justice of the amount of my claim, my books are open for your inspection.

An early answer will much oblige.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. H. TURNBULL.

Acting Consul H. H. Johnston, Esq., Representative of Her Britannic Majesty, to
Alex. Miller, Brother, and Co.

Prohibition of trade by Acting-Consul Johnston.

Interest and depreciation of stock, loss of profit and factory, and other expenses,
per month, 1,800*l*.

The above claim dates from the 19th instant.

(Signed) A. H. TURNBULL.

Opobo, August 18, 1887.

Sir,

Messrs. Harrison's Beach, Opobo River, August 19, 1887.

In reply to your letter of the 18th August, I have to inform you that you are mistaken in supposing your trade to be stopped. You are precluded from trading with King Ja Ja, or his people, and with Ohombela, but you are not prevented, through any act of mine, from availing yourself of your just right to trade at all the other markets of the interior.

The five other British firms who are established here will be comparatively little affected by my prohibition of trade with Ja Ja, as they have long since recognized the impossibility of subjecting their commerce to his exactions and caprices, and have consequently opened up relations with certain markets of the interior. If you have failed through any lack of enterprize to do the same, I can only regret your tardy recognition of the situation and counsel you to lose no time in following the example which the other agents in the river have shown you.

With respect to your claim for prospective injuries not yet incurred by your firm, I can only regard it as an act of gratuitous impertinence, most unbecoming to one occupying your responsible position. Should you consider that through any act of mine, in my official capacity, Messrs. Alexander Miller, Brother, have suffered—not will suffer, or may suffer—pecuniary loss, you should report the matter to your firm, and they can send in their claim to the British Government, who will, if necessary, call me to account.

In conclusion, I would express a hope that the prospect of any inconvenience or loss you may incur from your suspension of trade with King Ja Ja may induce you to use your influence with that person to prevail on him to carry out his engagements in a loyal manner, and to cease from attempting to thwart me in the exercise of my duties. Rest assured that, as far as Ja Ja is concerned, he has the power to satisfy my very moderate demands within two days, if he wills, and thus enable me to remove the restrictions I have placed on his trade.

I am, &c.

(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON, *Acting Consul.*

To A. H. Turnbull, Esq.,

Agent to the Firm of Messrs. Alex. Miller, Brother.

Sir,

Opobo, August 20, 1887.

Your letter of the 19th instant duly received, and I note I am prohibited from trading with King Ja Ja, his people, and with Ohombela.

Whether I have been precluded justly or unjustly remains to be seen.

I have submitted the whole matter to my principals in an unbiased manner, and I have no doubt their opinion will concur with mine.

In reference to your advice, counselling me to follow the example of the other agents, I beg to thank you, but I may state Messrs. Miller, Brother, and Co. have given me full discretionary powers, and I will look out for their interests to the best of my ability.

My letter of the 18th instant, with claim, was a notification to you of the expenses and loss incurred by us through this stoppage of trade.

I am, &c.

Acting Consul H. H. Johnston, Esq.,
Opobo.

(Signed) A. H. TURNBULL

Sir,

Opobo, August 20, 1887.

I beg to inform you that I resume trade on Monday, the 22nd instant, with King Ja Ja and his people, and will continue trading until the ratification of your action in prohibiting trade.

The debt the natives of Opobo owe us is to a considerable amount, and, in the present critical state of affairs, I am naturally most anxious to have it collected.

If convenient, an early answer will oblige.

I am, &c.

Acting Consul H. H. Johnston, Esq.,
Opobo.

(Signed) A. H. TURNBULL

Sir,

Messrs. Harrison's Beach, Opobo River, August 21, 1887.

In reply to your letter of the 20th August, in which you announce your intention of trading with King Ja Ja and his people in spite of my prohibition, I hereby inform you that if you carry your intention into effect, you will be fined 500*l*. If this does not deter you from disobeying my orders, I shall request Lieutenant and Commander Pelly, of Her Majesty's ship "Goshawk," to stop all communication between King Ja Ja and yourself, and any produce which King Ja Ja or his people may attempt to send you, will be seized and confiscated; likewise, any stores, trade-goods, money, or any values which you may attempt to send him.

If, as you state in your letter, you have been foolish enough to give out trust "to a considerable amount" to the natives of Opobo, you have done so at your own risk, for, as you no doubt know, the British Government has repeatedly warned the firms trading in this Protectorate that it does not recognize the giving out of trust, nor will it concern itself with the recovery of debts owed by the natives of these countries who are not British subjects.

In putting yourself openly in conflict with Consular authority, in aiding and abetting King Ja Ja in his resistance to my demands, you are placing yourself in a very serious position, but one for which, I presume, your firm are prepared to bear the responsibility, as you inform me they allow you full discretionary powers.

I am, &c.

(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON, *Acting Consul.*

To A. H. Turnbull, Esq.,

Agent to the Firm of Messrs. Alex. Miller, Brother.

No. 182.

Mr. A. Miller to Foreign Office.—(Received October 5.)

Dear Sir Philip,

4, St. Mary Axe, London, October 5, 1887.

AT my interview with you yesterday, you would no doubt be surprised at my not knowing the Opobo trade was opened, and I was surprised to learn it from you.

It appears my brother wrote me on Friday, but that letter has not till now come into my hands; this morning only I have a copy of it. It informs me the trade was opened on the 27th ultimo, but for one month only.

This accounts for my ignorance yesterday.

Yours truly,

(Signed) ALEX. MILLER.

No. 184 A.

Mr. G. Dobson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

My Lord,

Grange Alkali Works, Cardiff, October 4, 1887.

I SEE in the Liverpool papers a report that King Ja Ja had been removed from Opobo. I lived there for many years, and was very intimate with him, and should therefore feel very much obliged if you would kindly furnish me with any information you have as to the truth of the report, and, if true, then the cause. I may say I left the coast ten years ago, and am not now in any way connected with it, and my interest is only personally connected with King Ja Ja, whom I at that time had a great deal of respect for.

Yours, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE DOBSON, F.R.G.S.

No. 184 B.

*Mr. H. Cotterell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 6.)**Old Castle Buildings, 26, Preeson's Row, Liverpool,
October 5, 1887.*

My Lord,

I HAVE been requested by King Pepple and the Chiefs of Bonny to bring under your Lordship's notice the great injustice the people of Bonny will suffer if they are debarred from trading in the whole of the oil markets to the interior of Bonny and Opobo now that those markets have been declared open to Europeans.

Your Lordship will no doubt remember that in 1873, by the decision of the late Consul Livingstone, certain of the most important and favourably situated markets which formerly belonged by right to the King, Chiefs, and people of Bonny were apportioned to King Ja Ja, and have been from that time in his exclusive possession, to the prejudice of the Bonny people and the European interests established in that river. During the whole of this time the King and Chiefs of Bonny have been loyal to their Treaty obligations with Her Majesty, have patiently and respectfully submitted to the authority of Her Majesty's Consuls on the coast, and they now humbly beg that, under the new order of things ruling in that district, your Lordship will be graciously pleased to remove this long-standing injustice by proclaiming the markets referred to as open to all.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. COTTERELL.

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No. 183.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 5, 1887.

WITH reference to your letters of the 29th ultimo and 3rd instant, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to request that you will state to the Secretary of State for the Colonies that his Lordship is of opinion that it will be desirable that Ja Ja should be detained at Accra until the arrival of the Commander-in-chief on the West African Station, to whom the inquiry into the state of affairs at Opobo will be intrusted, and that he should then be consulted as to whether Ja Ja should be present at the inquiry or not.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 184.

Foreign Office to African Association.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 5, 1887.

IN reply to your letter of the 28th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to state to you that King Ja Ja will not return to Opobo for the present, and that his proceedings will shortly be made the subject of a thorough investigation on the part of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 185.

King Ja Ja to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 6, 1 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

Accra, October 6, 12.10 P.M., 1887.

UNJUSTLY brought Accra, and detained. Please cable Governor, "Ja Ja return Opobo first steamer." Reply.

No. 186.

Messrs. Miller, Brother, and Co. to Foreign Office.—(Received October 6.)

(Telegraphic.)

Glasgow, October 6, 1887.

JA JA telegraphs through his solicitors to press Lord Salisbury to send him back to Opobo immediately.

No. 187.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Miller, Brother, and Co.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, October 6, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant; and, in reply, I am to state to you that his Lordship considers it expedient that Ja Ja should for the present be detained at Accra, but that the question of his presence at the inquiry to be held at Opobo will be fully considered when the time comes for holding it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

Acting Consul Johnston to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October .)

No. 14. Africa.)

My Lord, *Messrs. Harrison's Beach, Opobo River, August 20, 1887.*

ON the 19th August I dispatched from Bonny a telegram *en clair* to your Lordship, worded as follows:—

"Through Ja Ja's action Agreement made with us markets broken. Obligated prohibit Ja Ja trading until fulfils engagement."

It will be, perhaps, in your Lordship's remembrance that in my last despatch (No 13, Africa, of 12th August, 1887) I described how Captain Hand and myself had proceeded to Ohombela with three of Ja Ja's Chiefs, who, according to his Agreement, removed the oath placed on the Ohombela people which prohibited free trade. Before the conclusion of the meeting both Captain Hand and myself asked the Ohombela Chiefs if they thoroughly understood that they were absolved from their oath. They said they did understand. "Were they," we continued, "willing to throw their markets open to the white men, and did they acknowledge that it was free for all to trade at Ohombela without restriction?" They replied quite promptly that they were willing for white men to trade there, but they would like a "book" showing them that the Queen was their friend. In other words, they wished to be placed under Her Majesty's protection.

I offered to draw up a Treaty then and there, but the Ohombela Chiefs said they must assemble their people first, and they asked Captain Hand and myself to visit Ohombela on the succeeding day, when the matter of the Treaty, the allotting of ground to the white men, and other details could be settled. Unfortunately, Captain Hand and myself were obliged to return that day to the coast, so we reminded the Ohombela people of how much time we had already fruitlessly spent at that place, and stated that we could not wait there another day and summon another meeting. However, I promised them that as soon as my business at Opobo was settled I would return, and would revisit Ohombela in about three days. This they agreed to with much satisfaction, promising that there should be no further delay, and that all pending matters should be settled to our satisfaction on my return.

So reassured was Captain Hand at the outcome of this meeting that he now looked upon the matter as settled, and leaving Her Majesty's ship "Goshawk" with me to await the final conclusion of the negotiations, he left Opobo in Her Majesty's ship "Allecto" to attend to other business up the coast.

Three days after his departure I was again at Ohombela, accompanied by the agents of the five principal firms trading in Opobo. We were so confident that our difficulties were over that we took with us large barges laden with building materials.

However, our reception at Ohombela Beach was a disappointing one. Not one Ibo man was to be seen. There were crowds of Ja Ja's people all round us, laughing and jeering as we approached. On sending into the town to summon the Chiefs, Ja Ja's head man, Ekike Notsho, forbade my messengers to go to the houses of the Ibo Chiefs, saying that the matter must be left to him to manage. After keeping me waiting some two hours on the beach (Ja Ja's men stopped me from going into the town), Ekike Notsho came down with a very large following almost entirely composed of Opobians. He did not even recognize me by word or look, but walked up and down in front of me, puffing his pipe in my face. It was with difficulty I controlled my temper, but I was resolved not to cause any breach of the peace which might alarm the Ibo people. Seeing no Ohombela Chiefs, I asked when they were coming. Ekike Notsho replied through the interpreter that he represented the Ibo Chiefs, and if I wanted to talk about trade I could settle the matter with him. I refused to open the meeting or to leave the beach until the Ohombela Chiefs appeared. After some parleying, they were sent for by Ekike Notsho and at length arrived. They saluted us all very politely, but seemed generally timid and reserved. I reminded them of the promises they had made at our last meeting with Captain Hand. I told them I had brought the Protection Treaty with me for them to consider and sign, and I asked them to come to an arrangement with the merchants present about the lease, sale, or gift of land for the building of stores. Ekike Notsho replied on behalf of the Ohombela Chiefs that they remembered the promise they had made to Captain Hand, that white men should trade at the Ibo markets, and they would accordingly show us in what we should be allowed to trade, and under what conditions. He then brought forward a slave, a bag of dried cassada, and a few yams. "Now," continued Ekike Notsho, "these are the things

you may buy, these and nothing else. And you must agree to buy them at the same price that Ja Ja pays. For instance, Ja Ja pays for a bag of cassada like this" (one the real value of which was about one shilling's worth of goods) "2 puncheons" (equivalent to 10l.); "do you agree to pay the same?" I replied he was talking nonsense purposely; that he knew very well that white men were not allowed to buy slaves; that we could submit to no restriction as to the other products we might wish to trade in; and that in stating Ja Ja was in the habit of paying 10l. worth of goods for an article worth 1 fathom of cloth he was uttering a preposterous untruth. "However," I said, "if Ja Ja wishes to purchase all the slaves, cassada, and yams for himself, he can do so; the white men will buy the rubber, oil, and dye-woods." "Then," answered Ekike Notsho, "if you won't buy the things I show you, go away. We don't want you here." Ekike Notsho carried on the conversation principally in the Ibo language, interspersed with words of Bonny and English (much of what he said was unintelligible to the Ohombela Chiefs).

I asked the Ibo Chiefs if they agreed with what Ekike Notsho had said, and my interpreter repeated again in Ibo most of Ekike Notsho's phrases. Some of them stated they did not agree, others were doubtful, but all seemed to concur in believing that they had better do what Ja Ja told them. They would not sign the Treaty because Ekike Notsho told them it would be handing over their country to the white men. Seeing that any further discussion was fruitless, I got up and said to Ekike Notsho, "As Ja Ja and his people have prevented the white men from trading at Ohombela, Ja Ja's trade shall also be stopped till he withdraws his opposition." I then left the place, although some of the Ibo Chiefs wished me to remain and continue the discussion. I saw, however, that as long as Ja Ja's people thronged these meetings and intervened in the proceedings, and prevented free intercourse between me and the Ibo men, it was only waste of time to argue about broken promises and unfulfilled Agreements.

Accordingly, after visiting some other parts of the river with a view to discover other markets, I returned to Opobo Beach. At first I resolved to stop Ja Ja's trade with the interior by blockading the river above Telefe Creek, but as this might involve stopping canoes coming and going between Bonny and the markets, and as I had no wish to make the Bonny men suffer for Ja Ja's misdeeds, I abandoned the idea, and instead, after consultation with the principal merchants of the place, I resolved to prohibit Ja Ja's trade with British subjects. This procedure involves no surveillance of the upper river, and is not likely to lead to any passage of arms such as might be caused by the forcible stoppage of canoes. I have the honour to inclose a copy of my prohibition. On my return from Ohombela I wrote to Ja Ja (in reply to a note of his asking why I had stopped two of his canoes), and I inclose a copy of this letter, in which, as your Lordship will observe, I have explained to Ja Ja what I require him to do to completely carry out the Agreements and promises he has made. On receipt of this letter he again wrote to me, denying that he had ever interfered in affairs of trade at Opobo since his Agreement was signed on the 5th August. He also expressed his powerlessness to remove the man Ekike Notsho and bring him down to me at Opobo. (Ekike Notsho is not a native of Ohombela, nor even an Ibo man. He is generally reputed to be a slave of Ja Ja's, and is of Bonny extraction. For some time he was living at Opobo, and then he settled at Ohombela to trade for Ja Ja. When, some three months ago, Ja Ja deposed the young King of Ohombela on account of his favourable reception of the European traders, he made Ekike Notsho Chief in his stead, so as to obtain a greater hold over the Ibo people.) I inclose a copy of my last reply to Ja Ja. I am naturally unwilling to do anything which may check the trade of this river or inconvenience British merchants in their commercial operations; but I cannot see any better way at present, and with my present resources, than that of stopping Ja Ja's trade with the British subjects. Unless he yields to my demands, he will soon be unprovided with the means of carrying on his commerce with the interior. Out of the six firms established here, five are entirely in favour of this stoppage of trade. The sixth firm, Messrs. Alex. Miller, Brother, have disagreed with my action. Their agent wrote to me when the order was about to come into force, and protested strongly against having to cease trading with Ja Ja. He inclosed a claim on me for damages at the rate of 1,800l. per month. I have the honour to forward your Lordship a copy of my reply.

My action in stopping Ja Ja's trade meets with the approval of the naval authorities, who are co-operating with me, and of all the British subjects in the river save the representative of Messrs. Miller, Brother. It is felt that Ja Ja ought to be made in some marked manner to suffer for the trouble, vexation, delay, and loss of

which he has been the occasion. Fining him is little use; besides, he has not yet paid certain fines imposed on him recently by Mr. Hewett. Moreover, to impose another fine, and then be obliged to enforce its payment, would probably lead to some recourse to actual force, which I have been unwilling to—indeed which I am unable to—employ, because, although the naval authorities are willing to lend me their moral support, they will not resort to armed intervention without the approval of the Admiralty. I feel confident that if your Lordship accords your approval of the course I have pursued, and Ja Ja sees there is no chance of my prohibition being cancelled, he will promptly yield to my demands.

In conclusion, I would like to remark, in case your Lordship should be disposed to think I am making too obstinate a stand about a relatively insignificant matter, that the entire question of free trade at the markets is centred on the admission or rejection of the white men at Ohombela. Once we are trading there, all the Ibo country is open to us. And, moreover, the Bonny men, who are at present on our side, are watching anxiously to see the issue of this conflict. At present they admit that if we wish to go to their markets they will not, because they cannot, stop us; they recognize, in fact, the inevitable march of events which is causing Africa to be opened up to the white man's enterprise; but if they see Ja Ja's stealthy intrigues, his cunning combinations, his threats, expostulations, bribes, denials, evasions—all the clever stratagems by which he has kept up his untiring opposition to the penetration of the rich interior by European traders—if they see this long course of action crowned with success, then they will themselves see the advisability of their following his example and of maintaining their position and their profits as the middlemen, the non-producers, the commission agents who interpose themselves between the European purchaser on the coast and the industrious husbandmen and hunters of the interior. It is no exaggeration to say that, from Benin to Old Calabar, all the native Chiefs are watching with interest the long struggle between the traders and the Trader-King of Opobo. As either side is victorious, they will rule their conduct accordingly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 188.

Order prohibiting Trade until Ja Ja and Ohombela fulfil their engagements.

NOTICE is hereby given that from this date all trade or commercial transactions whatsoever are prohibited between King Ja Ja and his people, the Chiefs of Ohombela and their people, and British and British-protected subjects, until the afore-mentioned King Ja Ja and the Chiefs of Ohombela have completely fulfilled the promises and Agreements made by them to Her Britannic Majesty's Representatives.

Any person infringing this order will be liable to a fine of 500l.
Opobo, August 18, 1887.

Inclosure 2 in No. 188.

Acting Consul Johnston to King Ja Ja.

Sir,

Messrs. Harrison's Beach, Opobo River, August 17, 1887.

IN reply to your letter of to-day, I beg to inform you that, after my arrival at Ohombela, I desired Captain Pelly, of Her Majesty's ship "Goshawk," to stop all canoes going up or down the river until my return from that place. The report brought you by your "boy" that canoes were upset and men drowned is absolutely false. No canoe has been upset, nor has any one been drowned; neither has anything been lost out of any canoe. One of your canoes, when called upon to stop by the cutter from the man-of-war, refused to do so, and when chased she ran into the bush, and two men jumped out of her and made off. As soon as I had finished my business up river I returned, and ordered the release of all canoes, having decided to take other means for enforcing the observance of Agreements between yourself, the Chiefs of Ohombela, and the British Government.

In consequence of the Ohombela Chiefs having, through the instigation of your people, revoked the promises they made to Captain Hand and myself on the

10th August, I regret to inform you that I am compelled to forbid all trade with Ohombela and all trade with you until this matter is settled, that is to say, until the Ohombela Chiefs open their markets to the white men, and your people at Ohombela cease from putting obstacles in the way of free trade. When the white men are permitted to trade without restriction at Ohombela, and when you remove the man Ekike Notsho, whom you have made Chief over Ohombela (in place of the rightful King, whom you caused to be deposed), trade will be reopened. I might further mention that I require you to bring Ekike Notsho down to me at Messrs. Harrison's Beach, Opobo River.

I inclose copy of my prohibition with respect to trade, and request you to carefully note and observe the same.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 188.

Acting Consul Johnston to King Ja Ja.

Sir,

Messrs. Harrison's Beach, Opobo River, August 19, 1887.

I REGRET that, instead of endeavouring to carry out loyally the engagements you have made, and of complying with the directions you have received at different times through Her Britannic Majesty's Representatives, you waste time, trouble, and money, you cause yourself inconvenience, and you do your country considerable harm, in attempting by ceaseless intrigue to evade the fulfilment of your Agreements, and to frustrate the just requirements of the British Government.

The statements you reiterate in your letter of the 18th August with regard to your influence, and the actions of your people at Ohombela, are, to my knowledge, quite false. The agents of five firms trading in this river have gone some seven times to Ohombela; I have visited that place three times; and Captain Hand, Her Majesty's Senior Naval Officer in command of the West Coast Division, has been there once. We all, from independent observation, are convinced beyond a doubt that you and your people exercise an influence and a domination over Ohombela which renders any attempt at communication with the Ohombela people fruitless save through your means.

I have never held a meeting yet at Ohombela Beach which has not been attended by large crowds of your people, to whom the real Ibo men are in the proportion of one to ten. The Opobo men attend the meeting and intervene in the proceedings without invitation, and always render impossible any arrangement with regard to trade between Europeans and the Ibos.

Perhaps, as you have never visited Ohombela in person, you are unaware of the influence which your Chiefs and slaves exercise over that place; an influence which I regret to say has been always employed in a most unfriendly spirit towards Europeans. Perhaps you have been uninformed that about three months ago your people, without, as you admit, any right, interfered in the affairs of Ohombela, deposed the Chief of that place, Akra Oranti, and put a man of their own, Ekike Notsho, in his stead. As you appear to ignore all these matters, you had better go to Ohombela and judge for yourself, as Captain Hand and I and the agents have done.

But it is a farce to pretend that you do not know everything which occurs, and has occurred, at Ohombela. I never go there—I never hold a meeting—that you do not send a man like Young, or some other messenger, to report to you on the proceedings, so that you may know whether or not the Ohombela Chiefs have done your bidding.

You had better, in your own interest, accede to my very moderate demands. Use your influence with the Ohombela people to open their markets to the Europeans without restriction, remove Ekike Notsho, and bring him before me for examination, and the prohibition on your trade will be removed.

I fear, however, that your intention is to continue your intrigues until the return of your Mission from England, hoping thus to wear out my patience and avoid any concession. What you intend to do if the representations of your Envoys are unsuccessful I do not know, unless the statement of the Bonny Chiefs (made to you in their letter of the 22nd July) is correct, and you contemplate selling your markets to some foreign Power, an intention utterly impossible of accomplishment. The

statement made by the Bonny Chiefs is a serious matter, and I shall have to investigate it when I proceed to that place.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 188.

Acting Consul Johnston to Mr. A. H. Turnbull.

Sir,

Messrs. Harrison's Beach, Opobo River, August 19, 1887.

IN reply to your letter of the 18th August, I have to inform you that you are mistaken in supposing your trade to be stopped. You are precluded from trading with King Ja Ja or his people, and with Ohombela, but you are not prevented, through any act of mine, from availing yourself of your just right to trade at all the other markets of the interior.

The five other British firms who are established here will be comparatively little affected by my prohibition of trade with Ja Ja as they have long since recognized the impossibility of subjecting their commerce to his exactions and caprices, and have consequently opened up relations with certain markets of the interior. If you have failed through any lack of enterprise to do the same, I can only regret your tardy recognition of the situation, and counsel you to lose no time in following the example which the other agents in the river have shown you.

With respect to your claim for prospective injuries not yet incurred by your firm, I can only regard it as an act of gratuitous impertinence, most unbecoming to one occupying your responsible position. Should you consider that through any act of mine, in my official capacity, Messrs. Alexander Miller, Brother, have suffered—not will suffer or may suffer—pecuniary loss, you should report the matter to your firm, and they can send in their complaint to the British Government, who will, if necessary, call me to account.

In conclusion, I would express a hope that the prospect of any inconvenience or loss you may incur from your suspension of trade with King Ja Ja may induce you to use your influence with that person to prevail upon him to carry out his engagements in a loyal manner, and to cease from attempting to thwart me in the exercise of my duties. Rest assured that, as far as Ja Ja is concerned, he has the power to satisfy my very moderate demands within two days, if he wills, and thus enable me to remove the restrictions I have placed on his trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

No. 189.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received October 7.)

Sir,

Admiralty, October 5, 1887.

WITH reference to your letter of the 3rd instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to forward, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of the instructions which have been addressed to the Commander-in-chief on the Cape of Good Hope and West Coast of Africa Station, directing him to proceed to Accra or Opobo, and after communicating with the Senior Officer, to hold an inquiry into the circumstances connected with the troubles which have arisen at Opobo between King Ja Ja and the British traders, and to forward a full Report to the Admiralty, together with his views on the whole of the matters in dispute.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 189.

*Admiralty to Rear-Admiral Sir W. Hunt-Grubbe.**

Sir,

Admiralty, October 5, 1887.

WITH reference to Admiralty letter of the 30th ultimo, and to the request contained in the Foreign Office letter of the 27th ultimo (referred to therein), that a naval officer may be directed to proceed to Opobo for the purpose of inquiring into the circumstances connected with the troubles which have arisen at Opobo between King Ja Ja and the British traders who carry on business in that district, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to inform you that, after further communication with the Secretary of State, it has been decided that the necessary inquiry should be held by the Commander-in-chief.

2. I am accordingly to signify their Lordships' direction to you to proceed in Her Majesty's ship "Raleigh" to the West Coast of Africa, for the purpose of holding this inquiry, making the necessary arrangements to meet the Senior Officer either at Accra or Opobo.

3. At whichever of these places you may select, you will receive from the Senior Officer extracts of the Foreign Office letters referred to in my letter of the 30th ultimo, together with copies of their inclosures, all of which were forwarded to the West Coast of Africa by the last mail, and after instituting careful inquiry as desired by the Secretary of State, you are to forward to their Lordships a full Report, together with your opinion on the whole of the matters in dispute.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

No. 190.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 7.)

Sir,

Downing Street, October 6, 1887.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to request you to inform the Marquis of Salisbury, with reference to previous correspondence respecting the detention of Ja Ja, that the following telegram has been received to-day from the Acting Governor of the Gold Coast:—

"October 6.—Referring to my telegram of 1st October, Ordinance passed 6th October."

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.

No. 191.

Messrs. Miller, Brother, and Co. to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

May it please your Lordship,

55, Waterloo Street, Glasgow, October 6, 1887.

WE have the honour to confirm a telegram sent to Sir Philip Currie this day in your Lordship's absence, reading as follows:—

"Ja Ja telegraphs us through his solicitors to press Lord Salisbury to send him back to Opobo immediately."

In the telegram received from Ja Ja he asks us to send him an early reply by cable, and we beg your Lordship to communicate by wire to us what you decide to do, in order that we may send a reply to him.

We have already communicated to your Lordship our views as to his arrest, or, in other words, his being taken to Accra, and we have also furnished what information has come to us regarding the disputes between him and the Consul. We have assured him in the strongest terms of your Lordship's good feelings towards him and determination to have a full and independent inquiry into the whole case, and we added our earnest entreaties that he should in no way add further to the disputes by any act of his own or any disorderly conduct of his people. We feel assured our letters will have his earnest attention.

* Duplicate to Senior Naval Officer, West Coast of Africa.

We most sincerely regret his being sent to Accra, which, in our opinion, complicates matters still further, and we should be much relieved if we knew him to be on his way back to Opobo, or if we were enabled to cable Ja Ja to Accra that you approve of his return, and to cable Opobo that you are sending him back.

Your Lordship may have already perceived the danger to the general peace and quietness of the territory over which he rules when it becomes known that he is detained at Accra. If a wrong step has been taken, it cannot be undone soon enough.

Awaiting your Lordship's early reply, we have, &c.

(Signed) ALEX. MILLER, BROTHER, AND CO.

No. 192.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 8.)

Sir,

Downing Street, October 8, 1887.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir Henry Holland to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, stating that the Marquis of Salisbury is unable, from the information in his possession, to form an opinion upon the question whether Ja Ja's Envoys and son should be detained at Accra, and that he thinks that the Officer administering the Government of the Gold Coast might be authorized, by telegraph, to use his own discretion in the matter.

Sir Henry Holland desires me to observe that, in a grave matter of this kind, it is unusual to allow the Governor of a Colony to act without positive instructions from Her Majesty's Government, even when he is in the best position for forming an opinion; and that, in the present instance, the Officer administering the Government of the Gold Coast has no means of deciding whether the condition of affairs in Opobo is such that these persons may safely be permitted to return.

In these circumstances, I am to suggest that the Acting Consul should be consulted upon the subject, and if, after considering his representations, Lord Salisbury thinks it desirable that they should be detained by force, in the event of those persons wishing to go away, Sir H. Holland will be prepared to give the necessary instructions to Colonel White.

I am, &c.

(Signed) R. H. MEADE.

No. 193.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 8, 1887.

WITH reference to your letter of the 6th instant, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to state to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that he has received a telegram from Ja Ja at Accra in the following terms: "Unjustly brought Accra and detained. Please cable Governor, 'Ja Ja return Opobo first steamer.' Reply;" and I am to request that you will move Sir H. Holland to cause the following reply to be telegraphed to the Administrator of the Government at Accra for communication to Ja Ja:—

"Inform Ja Ja that his telegram of the 6th has been received, but that Her Majesty's Government think it advisable that he should remain at Accra until inquiry is held."

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 194.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Miller, Brother, and Co.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, October 8, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, forwarding an extract from a letter from your agent at Opobo

THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON, D. C.
JANUARY 1, 1900

TO THE CHIEF OF BUREAU OF LANDS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

SIR:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th inst. in relation to the matter of the proposed extension of the public lands in the State of California, and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.

Very respectfully,
J. M. WILSON,
Secretary of the Interior.

No. 195*.

Foreign Office to Mr. G. Dobson.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 8, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, and to acquaint you, in reply, that, owing to the state of affairs on the Opobo River, Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston, now Acting British Consul in the absence of Mr. Hewett, thought it desirable, in the interests of peace, to deport King Ja Ja to Accra, where he will be detained until an investigation has been held by the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's naval forces on the West Coast of Africa, to whom orders have been sent on the subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

P. CURRIE.

with regard to the Notice issued by Mr. Acting Consul Johnston prohibiting trade with King Ja Ja and his people; and I am to acquaint you that a copy of the same has been forwarded to the Admiralty for transmission to the Commander-in-chief on the Cape of Good Hope and West African Station.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 195.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Miller, Brother, and Co.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, October 8, 1887.

IN reply to your telegram of the 6th instant, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to state to you that Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that it is advisable that Ja Ja should remain at Accra till the inquiry is held.

Ja Ja has been informed accordingly by telegraph.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 196.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Acting Consul Johnston.

(No. 22.)

Foreign Office, October 10, 1887.

[Transmits copy of letter to Colonial Office dated October 8, 1887: *ante*, No. 193.]

No. 197.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 10, 1887.

WITH reference to the letter from this Department of the 4th instant,* I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you herewith a copy of a letter which has been received from Messrs. Miller and Co., of Glasgow,† inclosing an extract from a letter from their agent at Opobo, relative to the prohibition of trade with King Ja Ja and his people; and I am to request that, in laying these documents before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, you will move their Lordships to cause them to be forwarded to the Commander-in-chief on the Cape of Good Hope and West Coast of Africa Station, for his information, in connection with the forthcoming inquiry.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 198.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Foreign Office, October 10, 1887.

[Transmits copy of letter to Colonial Office dated October 8, 1887: *ante*, No. 193.]

No. 199.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Couper, Johnstone, and Co.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, October 10, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant in regard to affairs in the Opobo River, and I am to state that

* A P. L. with No. 174.

† No. 181.

Her Majesty's Government must await the result of the inquiry, which they hope will lead to a better state of things than that which has lately obtained.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 200.

Foreign Office to Acting Consul Johnston.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, October 11, 1887, 6.10 P.M.

ACCRA authorities instructed to temporarily detain Ja Ja's Envoys.
Would their presence at Opobo be prejudicial.

No. 201.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 11, 1887.

WITH reference to the Colonial Office letter of the 8th instant, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to request you to be good enough to move Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, to at once issue telegraphic instructions to the Officer administering the Government of the Gold Coast, to detain Ja Ja's Envoys at Accra until further instructions reach him on this subject, which will be sent as soon as Acting Consul Johnston has been communicated with.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 202.

Acting Consul Johnston to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 16. Africa.)

My Lord,

Opobo River, September 6, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that on the 2nd September I concluded a Treaty with the King and Chiefs of Obako, an important district, principally inhabited by the industrious Ibo race, which stretches about 10 miles along the left bank of the Upper Opobo River, from the Azumena Creek on the south to the confines of Abunka on the north, and for an average distance of 15 statute miles inland from the Opobo River. This delimitation of Obako includes the town of Ohombela, mentioned in my previous despatches (Nos. 13 and 14 Africa), because the Ohombela people have admitted that the Chiefs of Obako exercise over them a kind of sovereignty, which had, until quite recently, been usurped by Ja Ja's traders.

I have the honour to inclose the Treaty in question; a duplicate is retained by the King of Obako.

As the immediate result of the conclusion of this Treaty, land in three places has been granted to the white men, and three buildings are now in process of erection. Out of the six British firms in Opobo, three are establishing themselves in Obako. Two other firms have just completed their houses at Esene, the centre of the rich Kwo district (referred to in my despatch No. 12 of the 2nd August). I have promised to proceed to this place in a week's time to conclude a Protectorate Treaty with the King and Chiefs.

The Esene territory marches with Ja Ja's country on the north and east (the Esene Creek being the boundary), and extends northward to the Azumena Creek, where it is contiguous with the Obako country, now under our protection. Consequently, when the Esene Treaty is concluded, the districts along the left bank of the Opobo River, from its mouth to 40 miles inland and for about 15 miles eastward, will be placed under British protection.

I gave a small present (from the Government presents at Old Calabar) to the King of Obako, which will be duly accounted for.

I regret that Ja Ja's conduct still continues inimical to our interests. The

markets at which the white men are now establishing themselves are, by his own admission in writing, outside his territory. He has, therefore, no more right to forbid white men or natives from trading there than he has to forbid their trading at Bonny or Old Calabar.

As soon as he shows some sign of withdrawing his active opposition by instructing his people to refrain from putting obstacles in the way of the Europeans' trading with the natives, I have assured him that the embargo on his trade with British subjects shall be removed. I have the honour to inclose the copy of a letter which I addressed to him on my return from Obako.

If the support of Her Majesty's Government be continued to the forward movement of the associated firms, their agents in this river are confident of a great development in trade consequent on their direct commerce with the markets of the interior. They especially count on the exploitation of rubber, camwood, and ebony, articles of trade which Ja Ja, in his anxiety to monopolize the commerce of the river, has hitherto ignored or kept back.

Trusting that in these very difficult negotiations I may be honoured by your Lordship's support and confidence, I have, &c.

(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure in No. 202.

Treaty with Kings and Chiefs of the District of Obako. Signed at Obako Beach, Opobo River, September 2, 1887.

HER Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, &c., and the Kings and Chiefs of the district of Obako, being desirous of maintaining and strengthening the relations of peace and friendship which have for so long existed between them;

Her Britannic Majesty has named and appointed H. H. Johnston, Esq., Her Acting Consul for the Bights of Benin and Biafra, to conclude a Treaty for this purpose.

The said H. H. Johnston, Esq., and the said Kings and Chiefs of Obako, have agreed upon and concluded the following Articles:—

ARTICLE I.

Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, &c., in compliance with the request of the Kings, Chiefs, and people of Obako, hereby undertakes to extend to them, and to the territory under their authority and jurisdiction, her gracious favour and protection.

ARTICLE II.

The Kings and Chiefs of Obako agree and promise to refrain from entering into any correspondence, Agreement, or Treaty with any foreign nation or Power, except with the knowledge and sanction of Her Britannic Majesty's Government.

ARTICLE III.

It is agreed that full and exclusive jurisdiction, civil and criminal, over British subjects and their property in the territory of Obako is reserved to Her Britannic Majesty, to be exercised by such Consular or other officers as Her Majesty shall appoint for that purpose.

The same jurisdiction is likewise reserved to Her Majesty in the said territory of Obako over foreign subjects enjoying British protection, who shall be deemed to be included in the expression "British subject" throughout this Treaty.

ARTICLE IV.

All disputes between the Kings and Chiefs of Obako, or between them and British or foreign traders, or between the aforesaid Kings and Chiefs and neighbouring tribes, which cannot be settled amicably between the two parties, shall be submitted to the British Consular or other officers appointed by Her Britannic Majesty to exercise jurisdiction in the Oil Rivers territories for arbitration and decision, or for arrangement.

ARTICLE V.

The Kings and Chiefs of Obako hereby engage to assist the British Consular or other officers in the execution of such duties as may be assigned to them; and, further, to act upon their advice in matters relating to the administration of justice, the development of the resources of the country, the interests of commerce, or in any other matter in relation to peace, order, and good government, and the general progress of civilization.

ARTICLE VI.

The subjects and citizens of all countries may freely carry on trade in every part of the territories of the Kings and Chiefs parties hereto, and may have houses and factories therein.

ARTICLE VII.

All ministers of the Christian religion shall be permitted to reside and exercise their calling within the territories of the aforesaid Kings and Chiefs, who hereby guarantee to them full protection.

All forms of religious worship and religious ordinances may be exercised within the territories of the aforesaid Kings and Chiefs, and no hindrance shall be offered thereto.

ARTICLE VIII.

If any vessels should be wrecked within the Obako territories, the Kings and Chiefs will give them all the assistance in their power, will secure them from plunder, and also recover and deliver to the owners or agents all the property which can be saved.

If there are no such owners or agents on the spot, then the said property shall be delivered to the British Consular or other officer.

The Kings and Chiefs further engage to do all in their power to protect the persons and property of the officers, crew, and others on board such wrecked vessels.

All claims for salvage dues in such cases shall, if disputed, be referred to the British Consular or other officer for arbitration and decision.

ARTICLE IX.

This Treaty shall come into operation, so far as may be practicable, from the date of its signature.

The district of Obako herein referred to shall be considered to include all the Ibo territories lying between Abunka on the north and Azumena on the south, following the left bank of the Opobo River, and stretching for a distance of fifteen statute miles inland from the left bank of the aforementioned Opobo River.

Witness my hand and seal:

(Signed)

H. H. JOHNSTON, *Acting Consul.*

For the Kings and Chiefs of the District of Obako:

(Signed)

EKEKE, *King.*

AKRA AHOUTA, *his X mark.*

AH'MUTE EKEKE, *King's Son, ditto.*

WANKWO, *King's Brother, ditto.*

TIJI, *King's Nephew, ditto.*

NWOLO, *King's Brother, ditto.*

TIJI AKAMBO, *Chief, ditto.*

Witnesses to the signatures:

(Signed)

SAML. B. HALL, *Chairman.*

ROBERT FOSTER.

THOS. J. WRIGHT.

JOHN ASMAS, *Interpreter.*

No. 203.

Acting Consul Johnston to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 17. Africa.)

My Lord,

Opobo River, September 11, 1887.

I HAVE dispatched to your Lordship to-day, via Bonny, a telegram worded as follows:—

"Ask immediate permission remove Ja Ja temporarily to Gold Coast. Organizes armed attacks. Obstructs waterways markets. Intrigues render this course imperative. Despatch following explains. Ask Admiralty telegraph assistance."

I dispatched this telegram and recommended the temporary removal of Ja Ja from Opobo for the following reasons:—

After concluding the Treaty with the district of Obako, which I had the honour to forward to your Lordship in my despatch No. 16, Africa, of the 6th September, I returned to Obako to see the merchants thoroughly established on the sites awarded to them by the Obako Chiefs. These, as your Lordship will perhaps remember, included one place on the left bank of the Opobo River and two sites on the Obako side (right bank) of the Azumena Creek. I found considerable progress had been made at the clearing on the Opobo River, but during my absence the Obako people had been down frequently to complain of Ja Ja's threats, which made them feel very uneasy. They said that Ja Ja's messengers stated that as soon as the Opobo Chiefs who had gone to England returned Ja Ja would then come and kill all the Obako men for having received the white men into their country. I intended to revisit the town of Obako to reassure the people and tell them they must attach no importance to the foolish threats and boasts of Ja Ja's people, and as I also desired to accompany the agents of the two firms, Harrison and Co. and the British and Continental Company, who were proceeding up the Azumena Creek to occupy the two sites given to them by the Obako people on the 2nd September, I resolved to journey to Obako by ascending the Azumena Creek and walking from the new building sites overland, a distance of about 3 miles. This Azumena Creek, I might premise, had been frequently ascended by white men before, and they had never met with the slightest unfriendliness or opposition from the natives along its banks. On this occasion our party consisted of five white men, several Accra carpenters, and about sixty Kruboyes, and we were travelling with a dingy, an Accra canoe, two barges, and a long boat. Never expecting any opposition would be offered to our progress up the creek, we were quite unarmed, save for one rifle and one revolver. After about an hour's journey we were suddenly startled by a shower of heavy-pointed sticks being flung at us from the river bank, and we then saw hundreds of excited natives on the left bank armed with Snider rifles, swords, matchets, and the above-mentioned pointed sticks. A number of Opobo men were there, but they did not take any active part in the assault. The people had constructed a boom, or floating bridge, right across the main stream, and at one side a narrow canal had been cut through the swampy bush, through which Ja Ja's canoes were passing and repassing. This canal was guarded by men armed with rifles, who threatened to fire on us if we attempted to pass. We stopped and parleyed. They confined themselves principally to repeating that Ja Ja had told them (the Kwo people) that white men must not be allowed to pass up Azumena Creek to build at Obako, and that they must be prevented by force if necessary. "They wanted no palaver with us," they said; "if we would make peace with Ja Ja, and get his permission, we might pass, but until Ja Ja sent word to them that we might trade with Obako it was no use trying to get by." We talked for some time, but they only got more and more excited, and as they seemed on the point of firing their guns, I thought it better to withdraw. Indeed, on our way down the creek we cut down some trees and temporarily blocked the way to hinder anything like an attack on our rear. We afterwards learnt from the Obako people that Ja Ja had recently sent for the Kwo Chiefs at Azumena, and had instructed them how to stop the white men, and had lent them a number of (as we could also see) new Sniders. I should mention that several of our Kruboyes were struck by the sticks hurled at us, and we white men very narrowly escaped serious injury. But for the fortunate interposition of my umbrella I should have received a blow on the head that would have effectually freed Ja Ja from Consular interference for a considerable time.

I have the honour to inclose a Sketch Map of the lower course of the Opobo

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River for the purpose of more distinctly indicating the various districts and localities referred to in this despatch.

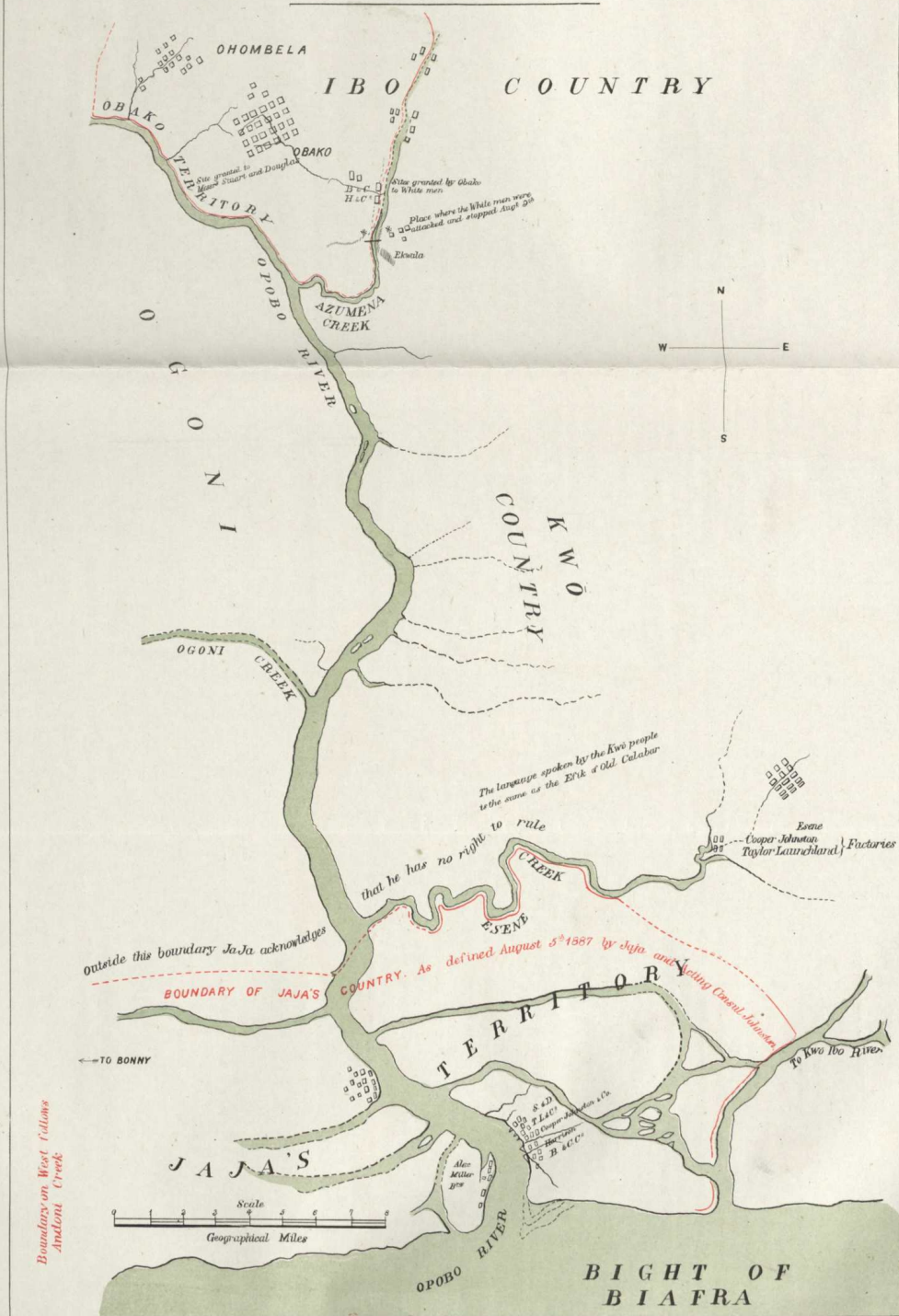
Long before the news of our assault was brought down by us (for we returned directly afterwards), there was a kind of panic in Opobo town. Ja Ja himself was reported to have run away, and several Chiefs began removing their property from the town, the impression being, such impression solely emanating from their own fears, that Ja Ja was going to be punished for his misdeeds. I hear, however, that Ja Ja has since returned to town, apparently regaining confidence from my seeming inaction.

What I regard as much more serious than Ja Ja's plans for opposing our settlement at the markets are the rumours which reach me from various sources as to his intended course of action in case his Envoys return from England with unsatisfactory tidings. If your Lordship declines to forbid British subjects to trade directly with the markets outside Ja Ja's territory, for such prohibition would mean the withdrawal of the bulk of British commerce from the Opobo River, and constitute a complete reversal of our foregoing policy, there is no further reliance to be placed on Ja Ja's good faith or friendship. He may either attempt to sell his country to France (he has now, I am informed, an agent in that country), or he may sack the factories, kill the white men, and retire into the inaccessible interior with his plunder. If there is any truth in the hints and admissions of two or three of Ja Ja's Chiefs, their Ruler is contemplating some very inimical action towards us if his Envoys bring back an unsatisfactory reply. Nothing will be done until his Chiefs and his son, whom he regards as hostages, are safely landed at Opobo, and then it would appear that Ja Ja will throw off all restraint and become a declared enemy of the British Power. I cannot yet say what plan he has in view, but it is one which seems to cause considerable consternation among his Chiefs and those who are in his confidence. One Chief (at the time I am writing) is removing all his people or endeavouring to remove them without exciting Ja Ja's suspicions, to the number of 300, and is also little by little transporting his portable property to Bonny, because he believes that what Ja Ja is about to do will entail some heavy punishment on Opobo town. He promises, as soon as he and his are out of Ja Ja's clutches, to make some surprising revelations. Ja Ja himself, and, indeed, almost every one but the British subjects, is clearing all his valuables out of Opobo; the whole town, in fact, expects a bombardment. No word or hint of mine or of any of the naval authorities can ever have given rise to such apprehensions. Except as regards the stoppage of his trade with British subjects (which has now been enforced for three weeks), I have never uttered or written any threat whatever to Ja Ja or to any one else in the river. I have scrupulously avoided doing so. Besides, I have always recognized this principle, that our dispute lay with Ja Ja personally, and not with the Opobo people. Consequently, I can only conclude that the panic which prevails in Opobo town is in anticipation of some contemplated action on Ja Ja's part unfriendly to the British or to Europeans generally.

Under circumstances like these, prevention is better than cure. As long as Ja Ja remains here I cannot leave this river, nor, in the opinion of the naval authorities and myself, is it safe to withdraw the gun-boat. Your Lordship will appreciate the serious loss of time and inconvenience this situation causes. I am practically obliged to forsake the rest of my district. I can get no satisfaction from Ja Ja. He signs Agreements to-day and breaks them to-morrow. He is in open contumacy to Mr. Hewett's orders and to my own. He still declines to pay the last fines (very small sums) inflicted on him by Mr. Hewett for disobedience and disrespect. I have never visited his wrong-doing by the punishment of a fine, because I saw the futility of expecting him to pay without a recourse to force. Ja Ja's acts of deliberate disregard of Consular orders and decisions are too numerous to recount at the present time. The situation, in fact, has come to this, that either Ja Ja must be deposed or removed, or Consular authority is a mockery in this district.

All the native Chiefs, as I stated in a previous despatch, are carefully observing the present conflict. If they see that Ja Ja issues from it victorious, that he can successfully defy British authority and can prevent British subjects from trading with the interior, then the difficulties which will assail British trade and rule throughout this Protectorate will be almost overwhelming to both. If Ja Ja be removed now, at the present time, before his Envoys return, the dilemma may be bloodlessly disposed of; if action is deferred, it may mean a costly and unsatisfactory native war. As soon as Ja Ja is removed, I will draw up his indictment from the evidence which will then be in my possession. If I fail to show good cause for his removal, he can be reinstated (as were Cetewayo, Manuel Vacca, of the Congo, and Zebehr Pasha), and I am content to bear the consequences of my actions. With the evidence at present before me, I

SKETCH MAP OF THE LOWER COURSE OF THE OPOBO RIVER.



honestly believe that I am acting for the best in recommending the course proposed in this despatch, and in my telegram of the 11th September.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

P.S.—I might mention that, in the event of your Lordship having sanctioned the removal of Ja Ja, I propose to place him and his son and Chief Steward at Cape Coast Castle, if his Excellency the Governor of the Gold Coast will accord his permission. I will endeavour to make arrangements that will permit of Ja Ja providing for the expenses of his detention (that is to say, the cost of his keep) out of his own funds, so that he may be no charge on the Colony.

I shall also, after his departure, arrange for the temporary government of Opobo by constituting a Governing Council similar to that founded at Bonny by Mr. Consul Hewett, which has hitherto worked admirably, both in the interests of natives and Europeans.

H. H. J.

Inclosure 1 in No. 203.

Sketch Map of the Lower Course of the Opobo River.

Inclosure 2 in No. 203.

Acting Consul Johnston to King Ja Ja.

Sir,

Messrs. Harrison's Beach, Opobo River, September 5, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have concluded on behalf of the British Government a Treaty with the King and Chiefs of Obako, whereby their country is placed under the protection of Her Majesty the Queen. The supremacy of the King and Chiefs of Obako is recognized by the aforementioned Treaty as extending along the left bank of the Opobo River (Eko-Toro), from the boundary of the Abunka territory on the north to the right bank of the Azumena Creek on the south, and for a distance of 15 statute miles inland from the left bank of the Opobo River.

The markets of the Obako territory are now thrown open to free trade.

I regretted much to observe the demeanour of your people at Obako. They again endeavoured both by threats and entreaties to dissuade the Obako Chiefs from admitting the white men to their markets. After the Treaty had been signed, two of your subjects, viz., Osuago (Tshilaka's boy) and Mangi-bo, came into Obako on Friday evening, 2nd September, armed with rifles and swords, and threatened the people of Obako that inasmuch as Ohombela, Abunka, and Akwita had refused to receive the white men, and Obako had made a Treaty with them, that Ja Ja would punish the Obako men. By my direction their arms (rifles and swords) were taken from them and were handed over to me. I have brought them back with me to this place.

I now call upon you, in pursuance of your Agreement of 5th August, to bring the aforementioned men—Osuago and Mangi-bo—before me for trial. I shall remain here until Wednesday, after which I shall be again proceeding up river for two or three days.

I have directed the Obako Chiefs and people to disarm all strangers entering their district who are carrying arms for purpose of offence and who make use of threatening language. I have further told them that if such persons, on being challenged, refuse to give their names and the names of their masters or employers (if they are not Chiefs), they are to be secured and handed over to me or my representatives. The white men are now commencing to build and trade at several places in the Obako territory. If your people attempt in any way to prevent the white men from trading freely with the natives, or offer them any molestation whatsoever, I shall hold you directly responsible for any damages incurred by such action on the part of your people.

I regret that your conduct should still compel me to maintain an embargo on your trade. I had hoped that you would have already perceived the advisability of discontinuing your policy of obstruction at the markets and of bringing down Ekike Notsho to confer with me. In the desire to see for myself whether you were ready to cease your intrigues at the markets, I ascended this river for the fourth time on the

30th August, and the result has been that I have caught your men in the very act of intimidating natives who are friendly to white men.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

No. 204.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received October 13.)

Sir,

Admiralty, October 7, 1887.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, extracts from a letter from the Senior Naval Officer on the West Coast of Africa, dated the 16th September, reporting his proceedings, and the alleged ill-treatment of some British subjects at Great and Little Popo.

A similar letter has been sent to the Colonial Office.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 204.

Captain Hand to Admiralty.

(Extract.)

"Royalist," at Sierra Leone, September 16, 1887.

ON the same date I received a telegram in cypher from the Acting Consul for the Oil Rivers, acquainting me that his last visit to Ohombela was a failure, and that he attributed his ill-success to the intrigues of Ja Ja and his followers.

I left Lagos in Her Majesty's ship "Royalist" on the 23rd, steaming along the coast for Quittah, where I arrived on the 24th. Passing Kutunu, the cutting through into the Denham Waters from the sea was very conspicuous.

Leaving Quittah on the 25th, I arrived at Accra on 26th. Colonel White, the Administrator, showed me some correspondence which had taken place between Messrs. Pratt and Co., the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and himself with regard to the ill-treatment of some British subjects at Great and Little Popo whilst at Accra, from the perusal of which I learnt that by a letter dated the 30th December, 1886, the Governor of the Gold Coast had no longer any Consular jurisdiction over the territories to the east of the Gold Coast Colony, and consequently the British subjects at Great and Little Popo have no civil functionary to appeal to. Under these circumstances, on my return to the Gold Coast, and failing instructions, should it become necessary for me to take any steps in this matter, I shall either send or go to the Cameroons and ask the Governor of that Colony to allow one of the German ships of war to accompany one of Her Majesty's ships to Little Popo, that there may be a joint inquiry into the grievances reported by the British subjects at that place.

I left Accra on 28th, arrived at Cape Coast Castle the following day, and Elmina the same evening.

On the 13th I received a telegram from the Acting Consul for the Oil Rivers, from Opobo, acquainting me that he had received orders to remove Ja Ja to the Gold Coast, and asking for assistance. It is impossible for me to give him any help at present, and I clearly explained to him before I left the Bights that, in the event of Ja Ja failing to comply with the terms of the Agreement he signed on the 5th August, he could expect no substantial aid from me before the middle of October, and by that time I expect to be in a position to render what assistance may be necessary for settling the Opobo question.

I have just received the accompanying letter of proceedings from Her Majesty's gun-boat "Goshawk," and as the mail-steamer is making no stay here, I have no time to enter more fully into the subject referred to therein, but the telegram I have mentioned above will give you an idea of the course events are taking in the Opobo River.

No. 205.

Remarks by Consul Hewett on Letter dated October 5, 1887, from Mr. H. Cotterell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 13.)

I HAVE long desired to see the native markets thrown open to all natives. The difficulty I foresaw in sanctioning such a step was that of preserving peace and good order at the markets.

I told the Bonny men they had a perfect right to go to those so long used exclusively by Opobo, but I would prefer their not taking advantage of the privilege until I had made Treaties with the natives of the countries in which the markets were situated.

I was unable, before leaving my post, to carry out my intention in this respect, so I left instructions with Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston to proceed at his earliest convenience to make such Treaties.

Until some provision is made for the settlement of disputes that may arise, as at first no doubt some will, I think it would be expedient to discountenance the common use by native traders of the inland markets, but at the same time, there should be no delay, as it would be manifestly unjust to withhold from natives a trading privilege enjoyed by Europeans.

Perhaps now that Ja Ja is away from Opobo would be a convenient opportunity for Mr. Johnston to make Treaties with the Chiefs at the markets, not only of Opobo, but of the other rivers as well.

I think that, to start with, there should be a Bonny and an Opobo Chief resident in the district of the markets used by the people of these two tribes. There should also be a Bonny and a New Calabar Chief to settle disputes in the Obiatubo and Endeke markets, and a similar arrangement also be made for the New Calabar and Brass markets, if deemed necessary.

I very gladly confirm what Mr. Cotterell says respecting the loyalty the Bonny Chiefs have displayed towards me, and their readiness to comply with my requests.

(Signed) EDWARD HYDE HEWETT.

London, October 10, 1887.

No. 206.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 13.)

Sir,

Downing Street, October 12, 1887.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to acquaint you, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, that the following telegram has been sent to-day to the Acting Governor of the Gold Coast in accordance with the request contained in your letter of yesterday:—

"Referring to your telegram of the 18th September, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs desires detention of Ja Ja's Envoys at Accra until further instructions which you will receive shortly."

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.

No. 207.

Acting Consul Johnston to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 13, 5.15 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

Brass, October 13, 1887, 1 P.M.

[I] REQUIRE [to] detain [at] Accra Ja Ja's two Envoys and his son Sunday. Envoys' detention [will be] short. [It has been] arranged [to] permit their return in [a] few days, but Sunday must remain with Ja Ja until Ja Ja's future is settled. Condition [of] Opobo most satisfactory. Trade flourishing. Complete accord between merchants and Chiefs all at markets. Chiefs say if Ja Ja returns civil war ensues.

No. 208.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 13, 1887.

WITH reference to a letter from this Department dated the 10th instant, relating to the difficulty with King Ja Ja, of Opobo, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copies of further correspondence, as marked in the margin,* that has been received on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 209.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received October 14.)

Sir,

Admiralty, October 13, 1887.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, inclosing copy of a letter from Messrs. Miller and Co., of Glasgow, with copy of its inclosure, relative to the prohibition of trade with King Ja Ja at Opobo.

My Lords desire me to request that you will state to the Marquis of Salisbury that copies of these papers have been forwarded to the Commander-in-chief on the Cape of Good Hope and West Coast of Africa Station for his information in connection with the forthcoming inquiry.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

No. 210.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 15.)

Sir,

Downing Street, October 14, 1887.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to request you to inform the Marquis of Salisbury, with reference to the letter from this Department of the 12th instant respecting Ja Ja's Envoys, that the following telegram was received yesterday from the Officer administering the Government of the Gold Coast:—

"Referring to your telegram of the 12th October, Ordinance provides for detention of Envoys, who arrived 11th October Accra."

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.

No. 211.

Messrs. Miller, Brother, and Co. to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 15.)

May it please your Lordship,

55, Waterloo Street, Glasgow, October 14, 1887.

WE have the honour to inclose extracts from letters received on 12th instant from Mr. A. H. Turnbull, our representative in Opobo.

Our Mr. George Miller, who is presently in England, will do himself the honour of waiting upon your Lordship at the Foreign Office early next week.

We have, &c.
(For Alex. Miller, Brother, and Co.),
(Signed) JAMES M'CONNACHIE.

Inclosure in No. 211.

*Extracts from Letters received on October 12, from Mr. A. H. Turnbull, Alexander Miller
Brother, and Co.'s Agent in Opobo, dated September 12, 1887.*

(No. 1.)

JA JA'S palaver. As the palaver now stands, I will put it in a nutshell.
The white men attempt to open up commerce with the interior people. They fail.

They accuse Ja Ja of having a Treaty with the interior people which prevents them from trading with Europeans; Ja Ja admits, and by the Consul's orders the Treaty is broken, and Ja Ja agrees to make no further Treaties with the interior natives, and, further, to pay any fine inflicted on him, to punish such offenders or allow the Consul to punish them if on conviction and it is proved before him that any one of Ja Ja's subjects have placed obstacles or molested the white men in any way to prevent them from trading.

The white men make another attempt, they fail again, and this time they are distinctly and emphatically told by the interior people that they do not want white men in their country.

The Consul now asserts that Ja Ja's people at his instigation have placed obstacles in the way to prevent or hinder them from trading, mere assertions which Ja Ja has forcibly characterized as falsehoods, and requested them to hold him to his Agreement and prove such to be the case.

This they have not done. The Consul in his aims of establishing the amalgamated firms in the interior uses the strategical resource of prohibiting all trade with Ja Ja, thinking thus to compel Ja Ja to force these interior people to trade with white men.

This is the whole substance of the palaver.

The Consul is still residing at Messrs. Harrison's; no doubt he lends an ear to all that the agents say about Ja Ja and ourselves, and then he must become prejudiced in his judgments.

I maintain the problem has been solved. The markets are open to white men, no Treaties existing with the interior people and Ja Ja, and no impediments in the way of their trading, nothing but the inclination of the interior natives to deal with.

It is unfair of the Consul taking up his abode in one of the factories; after all the kindness they will undoubtedly show to him it would go much against his grain to decide against them.

The Consul's attitude throughout this palaver is most unjust, most unjust.

(No. 2.)

I have just been across at Messrs. Harrison's and have had a private interview with Consul.

He referred to his letter to me in which he asked me to use my influence with Ja Ja, so that the white men might begin trade in the markets, and said he presumed I had not sufficient influence over him to prevail upon him to pursue this course. He further intimated to me that he found it necessary to write home to the Government, and say, owing to the support Ja Ja receives from Messrs. Miller, Brother, and the advice from their representative on the coast, he finds himself almost unable to cope with the palaver, and has even gone the length of threatening to stop all communication or intercourse with Ja Ja whatsoever. Further, he threatens me with deportation if he can prove that I have in any way given advice to Ja Ja so that he (the Consul) may be defeated in his mission.

The powers of this Consul are almost absolute; he even said if he wanted to push matters to an extremity he could deport me for writing to him intimating my intention to trade after he had proclaimed trade stopped.

No. 212.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Acting Consul Johnston.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, October 15, 1887, 5 P.M.

ORDERS given for detention of Envoys at Accra.

No. 213.

Foreign Office to Acting Consul Johnston.

(No. 23.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 15, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 14 of the 20th August last, reporting recent proceedings on the West Coast in connection with the attitude adopted by Ja Ja.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 214.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 15, 1887.

WITH reference to the Colonial Office letter of yesterday's date, respecting the detention of Ja Ja's Envoys at Accra, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you herewith, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, a copy of a telegram that has been received from Acting Consul Johnston on this subject.*

I am to add that Lord Salisbury understands from the Colonial Office letter above referred to that the Envoys will be detained at Accra until a further communication is addressed to you from this Department.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 215.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Miller, Brother, and Co.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, October 15, 1887.

IN reply to your letter of the 6th instant, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to state to you that his Lordship thinks it advisable that King Ja Ja should remain at Accra until the inquiry which is to be presided over by the Commander-in-chief shall have been held.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 216.

Observations by Consul Hewett on the Petition dated July 19, 1887, of Prince Efion John Eyamba and others, of Old Calabar, praying that their Country be annexed to Great Britain.—(Received October 17.)

THE Petition herewith returned bears but few names: this, however, can be accounted for by the fact, that if it had come to the knowledge of the Chiefs that a Petition of this nature was being prepared, the lives of those who took any part in it would have been in imminent danger. I know of many more whose names would have appeared to it had they been aware that this Petition was to be forwarded to Lord Salisbury, or, knowing it, had they not been too fearful of the consequences of discovery if they affixed their signatures.

Among others, who have spoken to me on the subject of annexation, and mentioned their wish that Her Majesty's Government would take such a step, was King Eyo Honesty VII of Creek Town, the senior King of the country; but he earnestly begged me not to let any one in Calabar know his sentiments which he had so freely expressed to me. He was afraid to take any action himself, or even to broach the subject to King Duke of Duke Town, or the Chiefs of the country, but he hoped to find that Old Calabar would be annexed without occasion arising for his views and sentiments being made

public. He was inclined to write to Lord Salisbury about it, but this, I believe, he has been deterred from doing simply through fear of what might be done to him if the Chiefs found him out.

The petitioners state that one Consular Officer is not able to visit all the plantations where most of the cruelties are practised. I thoroughly indorse what they say in this respect. It is impossible I find to deal even with all those cases committed in Duke and Creek towns which are brought to my knowledge. Accounts of revolting acts of cruelty having taken place at the plantations or farms are frequently related to me, but these are quite beyond my power to investigate under the present system of Consular administration, with an insufficient staff to assist me, and no force at hand to support me.

A feeling of disappointment has arisen among some of the natives, more particularly the poorer class, not only in Old Calabar, but in the other rivers as well, who expected a material change for the better to take place in the administrative, judicial, and commercial affairs, from British protection being extended to their country. They have heard that the Germans at Cameroons, within eighteen months of their making a Protectorate of that country, which was considerably smaller than my district, had a staff there consisting of a Governor and Consul-General, a Government Secretary, a Judicial Officer, and other officials. There have been for some time past also a steam-yacht and a steam-launch for the use of the Governor, besides a gun-boat seldom absent from the river. Is it to be wondered at that the natives ask why we have done nothing of the sort in our Protectorate?

We have practically made no attempt to ameliorate the condition of affairs in my district since the Protection Treaties were signed in 1884 except in appointing a Vice-Consul, who is only partially under me, and issuing the West Africa Order, 1885. With regard to the Vice-Consul, he can only be considered as a supernumerary on the Staff of the Oil Rivers Consulate, as his appointed residence is in the German Protectorate, where I have no jurisdiction. The West Africa Order, 1885, gives me more power than I formerly possessed, and it would enable me to do a great deal of good if the natives rendered me the assistance I have a right to expect under Article V of the Protection Treaties, or if I had a proper staff, with a local force at my back; as it is, I have not even one constable. The Order is rendered nugatory for want of the means to carry out its provisions.

To cope with the task of putting an end to the horrible barbarities which are perpetrated in our Protectorate, it is absolutely necessary that a much larger staff be provided, and also a local force of constabulary. The cost of these would be, as far as I have been able to calculate, between 50,000*l.* and 60,000*l.* per annum. Considering that the average annual amount of the imports of my district is 786,500*l.*, and of the exports 1,032,800*l.*, making a total of 1,819,300*l.*, it will be seen that the sum of 60,000*l.* might be raised by customs duties only; but there would be, of course, other sources of revenue besides. I speak advisedly when I say that the merchants, representing at least seven-eighths of the capital employed in the trade, would offer no objection to the imposition of customs duties, the compulsory payment for trading licences, or other means of raising revenue for the maintenance of such a system of Government as would insure the peace of the country, prevent further disturbance of trade, and enable them to extend their sphere of operations.

An advance would have to be obtained at first starting to cover the expenses of buildings for public offices, barracks, gaols, and residences for officers; of recruiting "hausas" for the constabulary and clothing them; of the purchase of a small steamer, steam-launches, boats, &c.; of furniture, of outfit allowances, passages of officers to their posts, &c. With a great increase in the trade, as I have no doubt there would be very shortly, I apprehend no difficulty with regard to the repayment of the advance. My district is better situated than Lagos, the most flourishing of our Colonies on the coast, inasmuch as we have no strong tribes near us inland to stop the roads, as too often happens at Lagos. On the contrary, the natives in the interior at the back of us are anxious for the European traders to establish in their countries. If Lagos has done so remarkably well, I see no reason why my district should not, under judicious management, do equally well.

With a good Government we should be able to give (1) a more general and certain administration of justice; (2) security of life and property; and (3) protection against cruelty and oppression. These are blessings which the people crave for, not the generality of Chiefs, who are powerful enough to defend themselves, and to inflict with impunity every description of wrong on the poorer classes of free and enslaved persons.

I have pointed out what I consider is required for my district, viz., a change in the system of government; that the annual amount to defray the expenses such a change would entail can be raised without any call on the Imperial Exchequer; and there can

be no doubt that the abuses of the power exercised by the Kings and Chiefs, of which the petitioners with very good reason complain, so far as Old Calabar is concerned, would gradually cease. The question, however, remains as to compliance with the prayer of the Petition. If Her Majesty's Government entertain the subject of annexation, I assume it will be in respect not to the territory of Old Calabar only, but to the whole of the country comprised in the Protectorate. I do not know that the change in the system of Government, which would be on the lines of that of a Crown Colony, would necessitate the countries being annexed; but if they should be annexed, the question arises whether compensation shall be given to the owners of slaves, and of the effect such a sudden wholesale manumission would have on the trade and the good order of the country. I think a scheme could be drawn up that would work satisfactorily without causing any disturbance in the country, and which would not require us to pay compensation. I will not enter into details of the plan I would suggest further than that it would be on the principle of turning the slaves into apprentices to their present owners, to be freed at different periods according to their age.

I may mention in connection with the manumission of slaves, that a Chief, reputed to possess over 1,000, told me he would like to give them all their freedom, and asked me what he should do in the matter. I recommended him to defer taking such a step, as it would inevitably cause a great disturbance in the country, unless the other Chiefs were prepared to follow his example, which I knew they were not. Another man came before me this year at Old Calabar to have a document witnessed and registered, which provided for the liberation of all his slaves at his decease. I inquired why he did not give them their freedom at once, to which he replied, that while he was alive they would be as free as if they were liberated, except that they could not give themselves up to be the slaves of any one else who might afterwards behave badly to them. King Eyo Honesty VII told me although he owned a great many slaves they did as they pleased, and when he required them to work for him he always paid them. These cases I have cited are certainly exceptional, but they show that the abolition of slavery would be hailed by some slave-holders with feelings of satisfaction.

So long as the country is only a Protectorate, we have the difficulty of contending against the native laws and customs, and it will be impossible for our work to be so thorough and our task so quickly done as if the country was annexed. On the whole I find, for several reasons, that annexation of the country would be preferable to its remaining a Protectorate—most of our merchants trading there desire it—and of the natives I know many who sincerely hope to see it brought about, while others who, though they do not wish it, certainly expect it to take place.

(Signed) EDWARD HYDE HEWETT.

London, October 15, 1887.

No. 217.

Foreign Office to the Editor of the "London Gazette."

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the editor of the "London Gazette," and is directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to request that the inclosed Notice may be inserted in the next issue of the "Gazette."

Foreign Office, October 17, 1887.

Inclosure in No. 217.

Notification.

The British Protectorate of the Niger Districts.

IT is hereby notified for public information that, under and by virtue of certain Treaties concluded between the month of July 1884 and the present date, and by other lawful means, the territories in West Africa, hereinafter referred to as the Niger Districts, are under the Protectorate of Her Majesty the Queen.

The British Protectorate of the Niger Districts comprises the territories on the line of coast between the British Protectorate of Lagos and the right or western river bank of the mouth of the Rio del Rey. It further comprises all territories in the basin of the Niger and its affluents which are or may be for the time being subject to the Government of the National African Company (Limited), now called the Royal

Niger Company, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the said Company, dated the 10th July, 1886.

The measures in course of preparation for the administration of justice and the maintenance of peace and good order in the Niger Districts will be duly notified and published.

Foreign Office, , 1887.

No. 218.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 17, 1887.

THE Marquis of Salisbury has had under his consideration your letter of the 5th instant, inclosing a copy of the instructions which have been issued to the Commander-in-chief on the Cape of Good Hope and West Coast of Africa Station, respecting the inquiry which is to be held into the circumstances connected with the recent troubles which have arisen with King Ja Ja at Opobo; and I am to request that you will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that his Lordship concurs in these instructions.

I am further to request that you will move their Lordships to cause Admiral Sir W. Hunt-Grubbe to be instructed, before he opens the inquiry, to report whether or no, in his opinion, Ja Ja should be allowed to proceed to Opobo to be present at it.

I am, &c.

(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 219.

Mr. Dobson to Foreign Office.—(Received October 18.)

Dear Sir,

Grange Alkali Works, Cardiff, October 15, 1887.

ALLOW me to thank you for the information contained in your letter respecting King Ja Ja, of Opobo, and to express my sincere wish that he may come successfully through his troubles; but at the same time to state that, from eleven years' experience of West Africa, nearly all of which was spent in the Bights of Benin and Biafra, that I have no doubt that he will meet with that fairness which has always characterized the proceedings of Senior Naval Officers on that station.

Yours, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE DOBSON, F.R.G.S.

No. 220.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 22.)

Sir,

Downing Street, October 22, 1887.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, a copy of a despatch from the Acting Governor of the Gold Coast, reporting the telegraphic correspondence which had passed between himself and Her Majesty's Consul at Opobo respecting the detention of Ja Ja's son and envoys at Accra.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 220.

Administrator White to Sir H. Holland.

Sir,

Government House, Victoriaborg, Accra, September 19, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report that I received the following telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Opobo yesterday morning (Sunday):—

"When steam-ship 'Opobo' calls Accra send on board and remove Ja Ja's envoys and son Sunday. Detain them safely until receipt further information. Matter extreme political necessity. Despatch following explains. If envoys not on board, search every British vessel calling Gold Coast. Telegraph yes, if willing take this step, or if step taken. Anxiously await answer. Matters here critical."

2. I replied to Mr. Johnston at once, informing him by telegraph—"‘Opobo’ due Accra 28th. Will take action desired unless Holland telegraphs instructing me otherwise;" and I reported the matter to you later on in the afternoon of the same day by the subjoined telegram:—

"Am requested by Consul, Opobo, detain Ja Ja's envoys and son on board of ‘Opobo,’ on account of extreme political necessity. Critical state of affairs. Have informed him that I will comply pending instructions."

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRED. B. P. WHITE, Colonel.

No. 221.

Acting Consul Johnston to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 18. Africa.)
My Lord,

*Bonny to Accra (on board steam-ship "Calabar"),
September 24 (28), 1887.*

AS soon as I received at Bonny your Lordship's telegram of the 13th September, approving my proposal to remove Ja Ja temporarily to the Gold Coast, I telegraphed to Captain Hand, Her Majesty's Senior Naval Officer in command of the West Coast division at Sierra Leone (where the "Royalist" had been lying for some weeks) in the following terms:—

"Government orders Ja Ja's removal Gold Coast. Await arrival second gun-boat Opobo before acting. Prompt assistance necessary. Telegraph reply."

On the same day (14th September) Captain Hand answered through the telegraph.

"Remember our last conversation. Impossible."

The "last conversation" to which Captain Hand alluded was one held with me on the 9th August last, just prior to his departure from Opobo. He then informed me that he would find it very difficult and very inconvenient to send a second gun-boat to Opobo, before the middle of September, and he therefore hoped I would do nothing to precipitate matters with Ja Ja as it would be difficult to take action until that period (the middle of September), and in case of offensive operations being necessary, an attack in Ja Ja's positions could not be made with only one gun-boat in the river.

Remembering these words of Captain Hand, I endeavoured to stave off the decisive action which I knew must sooner or later be taken against Ja Ja, and I therefore first employed the stoppage of his trade with British subjects as a means of enforcing the observance of his Agreements and Treaties. Unfortunately, Ja Ja showed a deplorable lack of consideration for Captain Hand's convenience. Ja Ja's opposition to free trade in the markets beyond his territory grew more and more determined, and at last, after my conclusion of a Treaty with Obako, Ja Ja sent for the Chiefs of the Kwo people, and made an Agreement with them by which the Azumena Creek was closed to Europeans (*vide* despatch No. 17 of the 11th September), while at the same time he attempted to drive the Bonny traders from Orata, and caused the followers of a Chief named Uranta (whom Mr. Hewett placed under special Consular protection, on the 9th April of the present year), to be seized at Ohombela, flogged, put in irons (they are still unreleased) while their canoes were swamped and their goods taken away. As the three British firms who had begun building in Obako territory (pursuant to the Treaty I concluded on the 2nd September) were forced to suspend their operations and abandon their allotted sites owing to Ja Ja's action, as it was no longer safe for us to traverse the creeks and rivers of the interior, and as the Bonny men were furious at Ja Ja's interference with their trade at Orata, as Uranta was claiming the protection accorded him by Mr. Consul Hewett, I could no longer defer action through consideration of Captain Hand's convenience, especially as I knew Ja Ja was planning a withdrawal to the Ibo country, and was only waiting for the return of his Envoys before putting himself in avowed opposition to the British Government.

I therefore telegraphed to your Lordship for permission to remove Ja Ja, and justified this course in my despatch No. 17, Africa, of the 11th September. Remembering Captain Hand's statement that he would not be able to afford extra assistance at Opobo until the middle of September, I had put off asking for the dispatch of another gun-boat until the 14th September, by which date I thought—especially as I knew on that day that the "Royalist" was employed at Sierra Leone, and the "Icarus" after loitering about the coast was lying idle in Lagos roads—that I might reasonably hope for the assistance of a second vessel, although the above-

mentioned ships could not cross Opobo bar, they could anchor outside and land an armed force if required. Again, I did not think it right to take decided action at Opobo, without first inviting Captain Hand's assistance, so that if I tried and failed through inadequate force it might not be said that I had acted precipitately in not waiting for reinforcements. When, however, I got Captain Hand's answer to the effect that it was "impossible" to afford me assistance (though the "Royalist" was doing nothing at Sierra Leone, and the "Icarus" was waiting at Lagos), I made up my mind that I must do my best with the little force at my disposal, especially as I knew that delay was dangerous, that Ja Ja was preparing to escape to a district where fifty gun-boats could not catch him, and that once escaped he would paralyze the Opobo and Bonny trade, and keep the country in a disturbed state for an indefinite time. Moreover, the Bonny men were clamorous for protection at their own markets, where Ja Ja was beginning to harass them (at Orata) and they plainly hinted that if something was not done they would themselves attack Ja Ja and bring him to reason. This would consequently mean the opening of a native war. Accordingly, after anxiously and carefully weighing considerations I resolved on a course of action which has—as I trust your Lordship will consider—been crowned by success, and which has effectually and cheaply done what a large force of gun-boats might have failed to accomplish.

Before I left Bonny I arranged with the Bonny Chiefs to block with their canoes certain creeks at the back of Ja Ja's town, so that in case Ja Ja should attempt to escape into the interior, his flight might be arrested. I was particularly anxious that, whatever might happen, he should be prevented from reaching his native land—the Ibo district, near Bende, where I knew he had been building a house and storing his goods. Here he would have had all the Bonny and Opobo commerce at his mercy, and the trade would for many years to come have been in a most precarious condition, while the interior would have been closed to our enterprise.

Ja Ja, who may be anything but a formidable enemy in open fight to a Power like England, would, with his cannon, rifles, and war canoes, his 4,000 fighting men, and his own personal courage and tactical skill, become a mighty conqueror among the peaceful, timid Ibo peoples at the back of Opobo. At present these tribes are without any cohesion; they are not led by any great Chief, and they are consequently more readily open to the influence and rule of Great Britain.

When I returned to Opobo I took counsel with Lieutenant and Commander Pelly, of Her Majesty's ship "Goshawk," and then I wrote to Ja Ja inviting him to a meeting on Monday, the 19th September. The messenger whom I sent with my letter informed me that all the big Opobo canoes were being made ready for some journey; that the town was quite deserted by the women and children, and that all who were left in the place appeared to be packing up and removing their goods.

Ja Ja at first accepted my invitation to the meeting, but afterwards wrote saying he feared to attend unless I would put a white man into his people's hands as a hostage. I refused to do this, but advised Ja Ja strongly, and in his own interests, to attend the meeting, at the same time pledging myself that, whether he accepted or rejected my terms, no force should be put upon him to prevent his leaving the Court if he refused to submit to my proposal. Accordingly, it was intimated that he would come. The meeting was summoned for 11 o'clock in the forenoon of the 19th September. Almost every British subject in the river was present. Ja Ja attended with all his Chiefs, and was escorted by nearly 700 men in twenty-seven large canoes. I would not allow any of his followers to land on the beach of the house (Messrs. Harrison's) where the meeting was being held. Moreover, as we had reason to believe there were arms in the canoes, the "Goshawk" prepared for action, her men were kept under arms, and her guns turned on the crowd of Ja Ja's followers.

Punctually at 11 I entered the Court with the Commander and officers of Her Majesty's ship "Goshawk," and read aloud to Ja Ja an ultimatum, of which a copy is inclosed. I gave him one hour for consideration, but before ten minutes were over he sent to say he accepted my terms. In half-an-hour he had surrendered himself to Captain Pelly, and by noon he was placed safely on board Her Majesty's ship "Goshawk." His large following of people was simply stupefied at their King's surrender, and for a short while refused to disperse. When, however, they saw him proceeding quietly on board the "Goshawk" under the escort of Captain Pelly they began to realize the situation, and all of them quietly entered the canoes and paddled back to the town.

Throughout all these transactions no force whatever was used, although it was made patent to all present that the "Goshawk" was ready for action, and would

instantly bring her guns into play if the crowd of natives attempted any violent intervention.

During the time that Ja Ja remained on board Her Majesty's ship "Goshawk" he was allowed to receive visitors four at a time; he occupied the Commander's cabin, and was shown great kindness and consideration by Captain Pelly. After his surrender Opobo became perfectly quiet.

On the morrow (the 20th September) I held another meeting in the Consular Court, at which all the Opobo Chiefs were present. Those Chiefs whom Mr. Hewett had fined in April last for contempt of Court, and whose fines had not yet been paid, now paid them in full. I announced the removal of the blockade and the opening of trade. I then read aloud a Notice respecting free trade at the markets, and the removal of restrictions placed on free transit by Ja Ja and Ja Ja's people; also an order to arrest and bring for trial the man Ekike Notsho, who has caused so much trouble at Ohombela, and who has recently been chaining, flogging, and robbing persons placed under special Consular protection by Mr. Hewett (Uranta's people). Further, after a friendly discussion with the Opobo Chiefs, I promulgated certain Regulations for the constitution of a governing Council to manage the affairs of Opobo *ad interim*. A free expression of opinion was invited from all present, and the result was the existing four of the Regulations, which I respectfully inclose for your Lordship's consideration.

I expressly informed all present that the scheme for this Council could only be considered a tentative one until it should receive your Lordship's sanction. No doubt it will seem very faulty, but it will at any rate serve as a stop-gap until such time as the country is brought under a regular Government. It is manifestly impossible for a Consul to be perpetually residing in Opobo to the abandonment of the rest of the district, and at the same time, inasmuch as the native Chiefs do not seem competent to administer the affairs of their country in a wise and just manner, it is necessary to create some scheme of local Government which may serve to keep Opobo quiet, and pave the way for a regular Administration.

As soon as I was convinced that there was no danger in removing the gun-boat from the river (I waited till steam-ship "Teneriffe" had come in) I took Ja Ja round to Bonny on Her Majesty's ship "Goshawk," and transferred him, his servants, and myself to the steam-ship "Calabar," which was leaving for Accra. The "Goshawk" immediately returned to Opobo, there to stay till I return from depositing Ja Ja in the care of his Excellency the Governor of the Gold Coast. Apart from the necessity of personally accompanying him to his destination, I had been recommended by medical advice to take a short sea-voyage, as the recent fatigues of my journeys to the markets, the anxiety and worry of these negotiations had seriously affected my health, and I was desirous of taking prompt measures to recover my strength.

Since my departure from Opobo I learn that the merchants are resuming their building operations at the markets and that the Opobo people take Ja Ja's departure very calmly, almost indifferently.

The delight at Bonny is almost unmeasured. When I arrived there all the Chiefs came to thank me for what I had done to avert a conflict at the markets. Indeed, as soon as the news of Ja Ja's surrender reached them King George Pepple wrote me a letter, the original of which I inclose, in order that your Lordship may appreciate the acquirements and capacity of the Bonny King, who, if not greatly superior to his brother potentates in commercial morality, is at any rate far more advanced in his ideas and his education. King George Pepple has always taken a sensible view about the necessity of throwing open the markets to free trade, and throughout all this long and weary dispute he has been on the white man's side.

From Esene (Kwo country), from the Kwo-Ibo River, from New Calabar, and from the Ibo country, I have already received messages expressive of relief and rejoicing at Ja Ja's departure from Opobo.

Very little sympathy in fact is shown for him by any one resident in the country or having any interest in its tranquillity or its advancement. Ja Ja's chief friends and supporters for years past have been the naval officers on the coast, with whom he has been a kind of pet. His generous hospitality, his frank, engaging manners, his *naïf* discourse and amusing crudities of diction have gained the ready sympathy of these gentlemen, with whom, indeed, the mere commercial interests of their fellow-countrymen are not of much account, being generally classed as a subject too sordid for the consideration of Her Majesty's naval officers. No doubt Ja Ja is no common man. Though he is in origin a runaway slave, he was cut out by nature for a King, and he has the instinct of rule, though it not unfrequently degenerates into cruel tyranny.

His demeanour is marked by quiet dignity, and his appearance and conversation are more impressive than in the case of his civilized neighbour, King George of Bonny, though the latter wears well-cut London-made clothes, gums his moustaches to a fine point, smokes cigarettes, scents his handkerchief with the newest essence, dilates on the acting of Ellen Terry and Henry Irving, and criticizes the comic operas of Gilbert and Sullivan, while King Ja Ja may present himself with a fathom of cloth round his loins, strings of coral beads on his sinewy neck, a smoking-cap on his head, and talk to you simply of trade matters or the manners and customs of his people. Nevertheless, I know King Ja Ja to be a deliberate liar, who exhibits little shame or confusion when his falsehoods are exposed. He is a bitter and unscrupulous enemy of all who attempt to dispute his trade monopolies, and to the five British firms, whose trade he has almost ruined during the past two years, his engaging manners, quaint conversation, and entertainments to naval officers are a poor compensation for heavy monetary loss.

At the time I am writing (28th September) Ja Ja seems happy and contented on board the "Calabar." So far from my action having caused him to regard me with any ill-feeling, he has never shown such friendliness towards me before. All through the daytime he is my constant companion. He will sit by my side while I am writing, and amuse himself by looking over my sketch-books and asking questions as to their contents. He occupies the ladies' cabin on board the steamer with his wife, Patience, and his housekeeper and amanuensis, Emma Ja Ja Johnson. He is further accompanied by a cook, a steward, three servants, and one Accra carpenter. I permitted him to take away from Opobo the eight persons above described.

As soon as the steamer reaches Accra I shall land and call on the Acting Administrator, Colonel White. Wherever it may suit the authorities of the Gold Coast to afford Ja Ja a temporary location I shall go, and after seeing him comfortably settled in some place, such as Elmina, where he may enjoy a due amount of liberty consistent with the necessary supervision, I shall return immediately to my Consular district.

I would respectfully propose to your Lordship that Ja Ja's son Sunday, now returning from England, should be required to take up his residence with his father on the Gold Coast. It would be at present highly inexpedient that he should return to Opobo. The Chiefs forming part of the deputation might be ultimately allowed to return to Opobo, but not until the question of Ja Ja's exile or reinstatement has been decided by Her Majesty's Government.

Neither Ja Ja nor any of his followers or Chiefs shall cost anything to the Government of the Gold Coast for their maintenance. Apart from the fact that Ja Ja has very large private means from which he might be reasonably expected to provide for his own support, the merchants at Opobo are willing, at my bidding, to resume the payment of "comey." This amounts at the least to 600*l.* a-year, and would be amply sufficient to defray all reasonable expenses connected with the Opobian exiles. The "comey" would be 600*l.* at the present time; but with the hoped-for development of trade consequent on Ja Ja's departure, it may rise to 1,000*l.* or 2,000*l.* annually.

Unless I receive at Accra some telegraphic message from your Lordship which imperatively requires my presence there, I shall, as before mentioned, return immediately to Opobo, and there collect all the evidence necessary to enable your Lordship to arrive at a decision respecting Ja Ja's future. This evidence having been forwarded, and the condition of Opobo seeming satisfactory, I shall resume my tour of inspection, and shall devote my attention next to the affairs of Benin.

Before concluding this despatch, I desire to express to your Lordship my warm appreciation of the help afforded me in these recent difficulties at Opobo by Lieutenant and Commander Pelly, of Her Majesty's ship "Goshawk." By his quiet firmness of demeanour he convinced the natives that he was determined to support my authority with all the means that lay in his power, while, at the same time, his kindness and courtesy made him a general favourite. He never spared himself fatigue or discomfort in obtaining information or in taking measures for the proper protection of the interests of British subjects. Neither he nor his officers evinced that unmanly dread of fever which too often characterizes the naval officers on this coast, and debars them from undertaking any useful work. What I have said of Captain Pelly is equally true of his officers, and nothing would gratify me more than to know that your Lordship had thought my acknowledgment of the services rendered to British interests by Captain Pelly and the officers of Her Majesty's ship "Goshawk" worthy of transmission to the Admiralty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 221.

Acting Consul Johnston to King Ja Ja.

I HAVE been instructed by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to inform you that the Government of Her Majesty the Queen has decided that you are to leave Opobo immediately and to accompany me to Accra in the British Colony of the Gold Coast. There we shall find your Envoys and your son Sunday awaiting us, together with further instructions from Her Majesty's Government. As soon as this preliminary step has been taken the British Government will cause a searching inquiry to be made into the charges brought against you by British subjects and by Her Majesty's Consular Representatives. Should these charges, on investigation, prove to be unfounded, you will be reinstated in your present position; should they be proved, all or in part, you will probably be exiled in perpetuity or for a term of years from Opobo; a place of residence will be assigned to you, your property will be assured to you, and you will be treated with due consideration for your rank. The same provisions will apply to those of your Chiefs who may be temporarily detained on the Gold Coast.

In the hope that you will see the absolute necessity of complying with the orders of the British Government, I have been instructed to invite you to surrender yourself to me in a peaceable manner, as, indeed, you would naturally do if you were confident of your innocence of having in any way wronged British subjects or committed breaches of Treaty obligations. But should you be so misguided as to refuse to submit to the orders of the British Government it will be taken as an admission that you are guilty of the charges brought against you. I should then proceed to use an armed force, which will mercilessly crush any resistance you may offer. You will be deposed and tried for your misdeeds as a common malefactor, your property will be confiscated, and your country brought to ruin by the stoppage of trade. Should you attempt to evade me by escaping into the interior you will be declared an outlaw, a reward will be offered for your capture, which will be sufficiently large to tempt the greed of your treacherous followers, and your bitter enemies among the surrounding tribes, hitherto held in restraint by the British Government, will be free to avenge on you old grievances. No man ever stood in a more critical position than you are in at the present moment, King Ja Ja. But you are still able to choose. Surrender yourself to me now, at the command of the British Government, and accompany me to Accra, and you may count on receiving every consideration at my hands and of being justly dealt with. But refuse to do so, and you leave this Court a ruined man, for ever cut off from your people and your children. I give you one hour to consider, and you will give me your answer here. If you consent to accompany me to Accra you will proceed on board Her Majesty's ship "Goshawk," and I will give you twenty-four hours to make your preparations. You can take with you a moderate amount of luggage and any persons whose companionship is necessary. I should also like you to be accompanied by your Chiefs Ogolo and Sam Ani Pepple as far as Accra, so that they can participate in any deliberations that may take place, but their presence is at present optional.

If, however, you refuse to place yourself in my hands, and to accompany me to the Gold Coast, you can leave this Court with the knowledge that you have completely ruined the commerce of this district, that you have constituted yourself the avowed enemy of the British Government, and that you have been the cause of your Envoys being detained for an indefinite period away from their native land. If you consent to accompany me, you may possibly succeed in clearing your character and in returning to Opobo to resume your present position, or, at the worst, of submitting to an exile from Opobo in the full enjoyment of the wealth you have amassed. If you refuse to obey the orders of the Government, you will linger out a few weeks of miserable flight, which will end in a degrading punishment or in death at the hands of your native foes.

On the other hand, the instant you leave the river to proceed to Accra trade will be reopened; and no man's property or pursuits will be interfered with.

You can withdraw now with your advisers, and consider what I have put before you. At the end of one hour I shall expect your answer, yes or no.

In Her Majesty's Consular Court, Opobo, 19th September, 1887.

(Signed)

H. H. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 221.

Notice.

FREE trade is proclaimed throughout this portion of the British Protectorate.

If the European merchants are not permitted to trade at the markets of Ohombela, Obako, and Azumena at the end of three weeks from the present date through the adverse action of the Opobo people, a fine of fifty puncheons will be levied on the town of Opobo, and ten puncheons each on Ohombela, Obako, and Azumena. Until these fines are paid, trade will be stopped above and below Opobo.

I hereby order, as a punishment to the Chiefs and people of Opobo for their recent action at the markets, that they do seize and hand over within three weeks from to-day as a prisoner for trial to Lieutenant and Commander Pelly, of Her Majesty's ship "Goshawk," the man Ekike Notsho, whom Ja Ja recently made Chief at Ohombela. If this is not done, and until this is done, those Opobo Chiefs at present in England or absent from Opobo will not be allowed to return, and a fine of twenty puncheons will be levied on Opobo town to meet the expenses of an armed expedition to capture Ekike Notsho. Further, if within three weeks from the present date the boom has not been removed from the Azumena River and the Kwo people of Azumena have not withdrawn their opposition to free transit up and down the Azumena Creek, twenty puncheons will be levied on Opobo.

The Opobo Chiefs will equally be held responsible for any interference with the markets of the Bonny men.

(Signed)

H. H. JOHNSTON, *Acting Consul.*

Opobo River, September 20, 1887.

Inclosure 3 in No. 221.

Regulations for the Constitution of a Governing Council to manage the local Affairs of Opobo.

President.—Her Majesty's Consul for the Bights of Benin and Biafra.

Vice-President.—Samuel B. Hall.

Secretary.—William John Kitchin.

Other members :

Opobo Chiefs.—John Africa

Sunju Wogo Dapa.

Fine Bone.

Traders.—Thomas Yorke Wright.

Frederick Dod Mitchell.

Robert Foster.

Alexander Hendry Turnbull; and

The Senior Naval Officer in the River, *ex officio*.

THE Governing Council will meet once a-week to transact business.

Three members will constitute a quorum.

Appeals from the decisions of the Council can be made to the Consular authority.

The powers of the Council will be limited to the preservation of order, the maintenance of highways and means of communication, the regulation of commerce, and the hearing of minor charges.

No fine can be inflicted by the Council which exceeds 5*l.* in value, nor any term of imprisonment beyond one week, nor any corporal punishment whatever, except after obtaining the written sanction of the supreme Consular authority of the district.

For works of public utility or necessity, a tax not exceeding the value of 1*s.* per individual may be levied by the Council, not oftener than three times a-year, on all persons residing in Opobo for a longer period than one month who are over age and earn their own living.

The decisions of the Council to go by majority of votes, the President to have the casting vote.

(Signed)

H. H. JOHNSTON, *Acting Consul.*

Opobo River, September 20, 1887.

Inclosure 4 in No. 221.

*The King of Bonny to Acting Consul Johnston.**Pelekule House, Grand Bonny,**West Coast of Africa, September 21, 1887.*

Dear Sir,

YOUR letter of yesterday's date, conveying the news of Ja Ja's submission (discretion being the better part of valour) as a prisoner on board Her Majesty's ship "Goshawk," is safe to hand. I have also carefully noted the other information therein contained; and, in reply, have to state that, agreeably to your wishes, that further preparations for placing a cordon of armed canoes round the back of Opobo, with a view to intercept Ja Ja from escaping from the rear of the blockaded positions held by Her Majesty's ship "Goshawk," shall at once be suspended.

The important step which you have taken with such complete success was taken not a day too soon, for I have news from "Obunka" to-day that he had got ready to escape, and would have done so had the dependents of the Chiefs whom he had sent to England acquiesced with his wishes; but they refused to move until the return of Cookey and the others.

I hope nothing serious may transpire during the short interval of your absence to Accra; but, should there be any necessity, I will act as you have directed by writing to the President of the Council in Opobo.

I would suggest now that Ja Ja is arrested, that no half measures should be taken in dealing with him, and wherever it may be thought fit in future to locate him, it should be at such a place as it will be impossible for him to communicate with the people of Opobo or the Ibo men, and I think from Accra he would be able to do that, and thereby disturb the peace and quietness of the country or countries, and the prosperity of the trades which you so heartily wish to re-establish and reopen.

Both myself and Chiefs feel fully confident that you will bring this palaver to a satisfactory issue, and reopen our markets to us as formerly.

With much esteem and regard, I remain, &c.

(Signed)

GEORGE PEPPLÉ.

No. 222.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received October 24.)

Sir,

Admiralty, October 21, 1887.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, extracts from a letter from the Senior Naval Officer on the West Coast of Africa, dated the 30th September, reporting his proceedings, together with copies of its inclosures respecting the conduct of King Ja Ja.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

H. J. VANSITTART NEALE (*pro Sec.*).

Inclosure 1 in No. 222.

Captain Hand to Admiralty.

(Extract.)

"Royalist," September 30, 1887.

I FORWARD herewith a copy of a letter I received on the 18th instant from Acting Consul Johnston to Lieutenant and Commander Pelly, of Her Majesty's ship "Goshawk," which explains the Acting Consul's further proceedings in the River Opobo.

I explained to Mr. Johnston before leaving Opobo the position in which I was placed with regard to the employment of the gun-boats, and I left under the impression that he fully concurred with my views; that, as he could not receive any effectual support before the middle of October,* that as this question of foreigners trading direct with the markets in the interior had been pending for two years, and as Ja Ja had sent a deputation to England, consisting of his son and two Chiefs, it would be better, should Ja Ja offer any further opposition, and fail to comply with the terms of the

* 29. September.

Agreement he had recently signed, to wait a few weeks, that when action was taken it might be effectual, and also executed under instructions from our superior authorities.

On the 21st instant I received a telegram, a copy of which is forwarded herewith, from which it would appear that the question has been satisfactorily settled. I have no details, and I therefore intend to proceed to the Bights after the arrival of the next mail from England, leaving the "Alecto" here, in accordance with Admiralty orders, to await the arrival of the "Acorn," which ship is due about the 7th proximo. I inclose a copy of a letter I received just before leaving Opobo from King George of Bonny to King Ja Ja.

I have been very generally informed that the Kings and Chiefs in the Oil Rivers are closely watching the proceedings going on in the Opobo River and the action taken by Ja Ja in connection therewith, which is really only putting into force Clause VI of the Protectorate Treaty.

There is one remark in Inclosure 5 which should not be passed unnoticed, namely, that with reference to foreigners; also if, as Inclosure 4 implies, the Acting Consul has been successful in his undertaking, he has gained an easy victory over the scruples of the natives; but it is possible they may have some ulterior motive; therefore I think it will be wise to keep a strict watch over the proceedings of the Chiefs in the Oil Rivers for the present.

I am forwarding a copy of a telegram received from Mr. Johnston, Acting Consul, which should have accompanied my last letter of proceedings.

I forwarded by Her Majesty's ship "Wye" the present given to me by King Ja Ja to forward as a present to Her Majesty.

The deputation sent by Ja Ja to England is now in this harbour returning to Opobo.

I inclose a copy of a letter I received to-day from Mr. Johnston, Acting Consul, and also a tracing of the River Opobo, from the "Goshawk," which latter shows the places recently visited and where opposition was met with, referred to in the letter.

Inclosure 2 in No. 222.

Lieutenant-Commander Pelly to Captain Hand.

Sir,

"Goshawk," at Opobo, August 29, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report that, acting on your instructions dated the 12th instant, I proceeded up this river on Sunday, the 14th instant, Mr. Johnston, Acting Consul, leaving at the same time.

I ascended the river about 19 miles, and awaited the return of the Consul from Ohombela, &c.

On Monday, the 15th, I received the accompanying letter from the Acting Consul, and acting thereon, I detained all canoes until Mr. Johnston returned on the 17th. The canoes were then released by him, and we left for the factories.

Since trade has been prohibited here with Ja Ja (as telegraphed by Mr. Johnston to you) watch has been kept, but apparently no attempt has been made to trade.

While up the river a steam-launch was lent to assist in surveying, and two men belonging to her were victualled by the ship for three days.

A Report of the survey will be forwarded when complete.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

J. H. PELLY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 222.

Acting Consul Johnston to Captain Pelly.

Dear Captain Pelly,

Opobo River, off Ohombela Creek, August 15, 1887.

I REGRET to inform you that there has been a complete subversion of nearly all that Captain Hand and myself effected during our last visit to Ohombela.

As you will doubtless remember, at that meeting the Ohombela Chiefs accepted the principle of free trade, and promised to open their markets to the white men; the actual question of the lease or sale of a piece of ground for building purposes being referred to a subsequent discussion.

On my return here, however, I found that Ja Ja had, by his influence and through his Headman, Ekiko Notsho, completely reversed the situation. It was with much difficulty that I could get any of the Ibo Chiefs to attend the meeting, and when they did come they were swamped with numbers of Ja Ja's boys, and scarcely dared express their opinion, although they afforded us a little timid encouragement. Ja Ja's Headman said positively that unless the white men would agree to trade in slaves solely, and not buy palm oil, they should not trade a Ohombela, and the Ohombela people should not give them ground. I replied that the white man could not buy slaves, and that as the Queen (British Government) had proclaimed free trade throughout this Protectorate, there could be no restriction placed on the purchase of palm oil or any other product. "Then," said Ja Ja's Headman, "white men shall not trade here." "If white men may not trade here, neither shall any one else," I replied.

I had previously agreed with Captain Hand, and had informed Ja Ja, that if his people prevented white men from trading at Ohombela, Ja Ja and all others should be stopped from trading at the markets till the matter was settled.

Consequently, I must now ask you to immediately institute a blockade.

No canoes or boats that cannot show a written permit, signed by myself, must be allowed to pass either up or down the river; in other words, nothing must pass the "Goshawk."

I leave to you the best means of enforcing the blockade, but to be of any use it must be effectual.

I am obliged to continue my journey up river; but I shall return to where the "Goshawk" is anchored in about five days. I will there give you further information, which I have not the time to communicate now.

In the meanwhile, I must earnestly beg you to consider the situation as one leading serious measures, and I therefore request you to support my authority by the immediate application of this blockade.

No boats or canoes whatever must be allowed to pass up river unless presenting permits signed by myself.

I will communicate with Her Majesty's Government and with Her Majesty's Senior Naval Officer of the West Coast Division at the first opportunity.

All persons interrogating you as to the reason of this blockade can be informed that it is on account of the breach of Agreement at Ohombela, and can be referred to me for further information.

The barges now descending the river are placed at your disposal by the agents of the African Association in the event of their being considered by you to be of use in more stringently carrying out the blockade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 222.

Acting Consul Johnston to Captain Hand.

(Telegraphic.)

Opobo, September 21, 1887.

OPOBO difficulty settled, complete surrender, no fighting, trade reopened. "Pelly" behaved admirably; "Goshawk" remains until details finished, then proceeds Fernando Po, Mondolé, Benin; while "Goshawk" waiting Opobo, am finishing Bonny and Brass.

Inclosure 5 in No. 222.

The King and Chiefs of Bonny to King Ja Ja and the Chiefs of Opobo.

Gentlemen,

Pelchule House, Grand Bonny, July 22, 1887.

ON the 22nd and 27th of last month, we sent two messages to you asking for information from you as to the cause of the disturbed relations between you and the white men in your river: pointing out to you at the same time that we would regret any actions of yours that would tend to retard the peaceful progress of our trade.

To these frank and courteous messages of ours you have made devious replies: we therefore resolved to inquire from the Agents in your river as to the real facts of

the case, and we have ascertained from them that the causes which have led to these serious troubles can be summed up in a few words: "despotic monopoly in trade," or, to make it more plain to you, "protection" versus "free trade." They said you wanted them not to chop, so they have gone past you into the interior to find their chop.

However, when we sent to ask you on the 20th instant, you told us that the white man first quarrelled with you about "topping," and you recapitulated the unjust fines, amounting to 300 puncheons of oil, that Consul Hewett had levied from you, which you said you finished up in one morning. Also, that you had not as yet sold our ancestors' markets, but you had deputed some of your Chiefs to start for England by fast steamer to represent your case to the British Government, and in the event of their representation being unsuccessful not being respected in England, you will tell the said Chiefs to appeal to and call in some foreign nation, with whom you may arrange either to buy the markets or trade with you instead of the Englishmen.

In the face of all this disregard for Bonny by acting on your own responsibility, and without our consent, we have to inform you that from henceforth you must not consider the markets solely your own; the unjust and iniquitous diplomacy by which you have been enjoying the lion's share of the markets for these many years is now as well known by the British Government and the English merchants as it is patent to you and ourselves.

The advancement of the age and our right of seniority as the elder branch of the Bonny family forbids us to permit your usurpation of the Bonny markets any longer.

And we must warn you that we object to, will oppose, your bringing foreigners into our markets, or arrogating to yourself a right which was never given to you by us, and which you never acquired by conquest, of selling: our markets are the joint and common property of all Bonny and Opobo-Bonny citizens.

(Signed) King and Chiefs of Bonny.

Inclosure 6 in No. 222.

Acting Consul Johnston to Captain Hand.

(Telegraphic.)

Bonny, September 14, 1887.

GOVERNMENT orders Ja Ja's removal Gold Coast. Await arrival of second gun-boat Opobo before acting. Prompt assistance necessary.

Telegraph reply.

Inclosure 7 in No. 222.

Acting Consul Johnston to Captain Hand.

Sir,

Opobo River, September 11, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 27th August. The interpretation you placed on my cypher telegram of the 19th August was correct. I consider that the circumstances of the position in which I found myself after being expelled by the Ohombela men, or, perhaps, I should more correctly say, by Ja Ja's men at Ohombela, rendered it necessary that I should mark my sense of displeasure at the breach of faith on Ja Ja's part, by inflicting on him some punishment which would not necessitate any recourse to force, and which might at the same time induce him to accept my terms. I therefore prohibited his trade with British subjects, and communicated my action to Her Majesty's Government by telegram. I have received hitherto no intimation that the course I have taken has met with disapproval from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

The terms on which I consented to remove my prohibition on trade were certainly not unreasonable. I asked Ja Ja to remove Ekike Notsho, his nominee whom he had made Chief over Ohombela in place of Akra Ohonta, the deposed King, and to cause his people to entirely abstain from intervention in all palavers respecting the settlement of white men at the markets outside Ja Ja's territory. I ever afterwards, owing to apparent overtures from Ohombela, waived the condition about bringing Ekike Notsho away, and stated that if, on the occasion of my next visit to the markets, I found that Ja Ja's men had ceased all opposition to the direct intercourse of the Europeans and the natives, and had abstained from all further threats and measures

calculated to intimidate the natives and prevent their receiving white men at their markets, I would remove the prohibition on trade. Unfortunately, when I next visited the districts lying beyond Ja Ja's territory I had good cause to believe that he was still actively endeavouring to prevent Europeans from trading in the interior. I had concluded a very satisfactory Treaty with the King and Chiefs of the important Ibo district at Obako. Obako town lies about 1 mile to the south of Ohombela, and communicates by an independent creek with the main river. The Obako territory stretches for a distance of nearly 10 miles along the left bank of the Opobo River, and is bounded on the south by the Azumena Creek, which is its southern limit. The Obako people granted the merchants land in those places: a site on the left bank of the Opobo River, and two sites on the right bank of the Azumena Creek. After these matters were settled some of Ja Ja's men, armed with guns and swords, came to Obako and threatened them that, inasmuch as they had made a Treaty with the white men and given them land, Ja Ja would come and fight them as soon as his Chiefs returned from England. Two of these men of Ja Ja's were identified by the Obako men, who overpowered and disarmed them. The Obako Chiefs handed two rifles and one sword to me, and gave me the names of the men of Ja Ja's who had borne these arms and used them in a threatening manner. On my return to Opobo I called upon Ja Ja to act in accordance with the Agreement he signed on the 5th August, and to bring these two men (whom I named) before me to be tried for having caused a disturbance at the markets.

He did not do so, but wrote me a vaguely worded letter warning me to look out for disturbance in the interior.

On the 8th September I again proceeded up river to see the three Agents who had had land given to them by the Obako people, take possession and build on their property. The site on the left bank of the Opobo River had been already cleared, and having seen the building operations commence, I started up the Azumena Creek with Messrs. Wright, Foster, Broadbent, and Maudesley, several carpenters, about sixty-two boys, and a quantity of building material. Never expecting any opposition would be offered to our progress up the creek we were quite unarmed, save for one rifle and one revolver.* After about an hour's journey we were suddenly startled by a shower of heavy-pointed sticks being flung at us from the river bank, and we then saw hundreds of excited natives on the left bank armed with Snider rifles, swords, matelets, and the above-mentioned pointed sticks. A number of Opobo men were there, but they did not take any active part in the assault. The people had constructed a boom or floating bridge right across the main stream, and at one side a narrow canal had been cut through the swampy bush, through which Ja Ja's canoes were passing and repassing. This canal was guarded by men armed with rifles, who threatened to fire on us if we attempted to pass. We stopped and parleyed. They confined themselves principally to repeating that Ja Ja had told them (the Kwo people) that white men must not be allowed to pass up Azumena Creek to build at Obako, and that they must be prevented by force if necessary. They wanted no palaver with us, they said: "If we would make peace with Ja Ja and get his permission we might pass, but until Ja Ja sent word to them that we might trade with Obako, it was no use trying to get by." We talked for some time, but they only got more and more excited, and as the guns seemed on the point of going off, I thought it better to withdraw. Indeed, on our way down the creek we cut down some trees and temporarily blocked the way to hinder anything like an attack on our rear. We afterwards learnt from the Obako people that Ja Ja had recently sent for the Kwo Chiefs at Azumena and had instructed them how to stop the white men, and had lent them a number of (as we could also see) new Sniders. I should mention that several of our Kwo boys were struck by the sticks hurled at us, and we white men very narrowly escaped serious injury. But for the fortunate interposition of my umbrella, I might have received a blow on the head that would have effectually freed Ja Ja from Consular interference for a considerable time.

Long before the news of our assault was brought down by us there was a kind of panic in Opobo town; Ja Ja himself was said to have run away. I hear, however, since our return, that he has come back.

What I regard as much more serious than Ja Ja's plans for opposing our progress to the markets are the rumours which reach me as to his intended course of action in case his envoys return from England with unsatisfactory tidings. If Lord Salisbury refuses to forbid the merchants to trade at the markets outside Ja Ja's territory, there

* I should have mentioned that Azumena Creek has been frequently ascended before by the white men, and they have never before met with the slightest opposition.

No. 222*.

Messrs. Miller, Brother, and Co. to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 26.)

May it please your Lordship, 55, Waterloo Street, Glasgow, October 25, 1887.

WE have the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of the letter received yesterday from our assistant agent at Opobo regarding proceedings there, which speaks for itself.

We have, &c.
(Signed) ALEX. MILLER, BROTHER, AND CO.

Inclosure in No. 222*.

Mr. Turnbull to Messrs. Miller, Brother, and Co.

(Extract.)

Opobo, September 21, 1887.

AT a meeting held on the 19th instant the Consul declared to all present, including Ja Ja, that he had received an ultimatum from the Government to the effect:—

Ja Ja must accompany him to Accra, and there await until a searching inquiry had been made into the charges brought against him, viz., "obstructing and placing hindrances in the way of free trade in the interior." If these charges are not proven, Ja Ja returns to his country and assumes his duty as Sovereign, but, if proven, he is exiled. If Ja Ja had refused, he would have been declared guilty and an enemy of the Queen, and a price would have been offered for his capture sufficiently large (the Consul stated) to tempt his traitorous followers.

Ja Ja agreed to accompany the Consul, and it has been arranged to meet his English deputation there, at Accra.

The Consul stated further, if they do not bring the interior Chief Ekike down to him (refer to my letter of the 29th August) he inflicts a fine of 20 puncheons on Opobo town, for the purpose, he states, of arming soldiers who will proceed there and effect his capture, and, further, until Ekike's capture, Ja Ja and his Ambassadors who went to Britain will not be allowed to return to this country. If the interior markets are not opened to white men in three weeks from the 19th September the Consul will inflict a fine of 50 puncheons on the Opobo people: this amount will be expended in outfitting and arming an expedition to go to the interior and compel by force these natives to open their markets to the white men's commerce.

If this armed squad proceeds to the interior to capture this Chief I think a massacre will be inevitable; consequently, the whole country will be in an uproar.

As I said before, might is right; there is no question of justice here.

is no knowing what course he may take. He may either sell his country to France (he has an Agent now in Havre), or he may sack the factories, kill the white men, and retire into the inaccessible interior with his plunder. If there is any truth in the rumours that reach me from different sources, he is contemplating some treachery if the interior is not closed to white men and their trade. I have, therefore, in view of possible emergencies, telegraphed this day to the Foreign Office for further instructions. Possibly before this despatch reaches you, I may have telegraphed to you for assistance in carrying out my orders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

No. 223.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 27.)

Sir,

Downing Street, October 26, 1887.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, the accompanying document relating to the detention of Ja Ja.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 223.

Administrator White to Sir H. Holland.

Sir,

Government House, Victoriaborg, Accra, September 28, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report that I have this day received from you the following telegraphic despatch:—

"Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs desires detention of Ja Ja, whom Consul is bringing to Accra, until result of inquiry into his proceedings at Opobo. If this cannot be effected by friendly action, Ordinance [?] in accordance with precedent should be passed at once."

2. I would beg leave to refer you to my telegram and despatch of the 19th instant upon the subject of the detention of Ja Ja's son and envoys, to the former of which I have as yet received no reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRED. B. P. WHITE, Colonel.

P.S. *September 30.*—Mr. Johnston has arrived at Accra this morning in the "Calabar" with King Ja Ja. I propose to rent a comfortable house for the latter, for the present, at Christiansborg, but I will report further by telegram and despatch after the steamer has left.

F. B. P. W.

No. 224.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet.

(No. 244. Africa.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 28, 1887.

YOUR Excellency is aware, from the various despatches that have passed between this Department and your Embassy, as well as from communications that have been received from the German Government, that when the separate spheres of influence of the British and German Protectorates were arranged with Germany on the West Coast of Africa, it was agreed that the line of demarcation should be the Rio del Rey from its mouth to its source, and a line from the source to the rapids on the Cross River.

Your Excellency also knows that subsequently doubts arose both in the minds of Her Majesty's Government and of the Imperial Government as to whether the Rio del Rey was correctly traced on the charts upon which the negotiations had been based, and with a view to the settlement of that difficulty, Her Majesty's Government thought it

expedient to instruct Vice-Consul Johnston to proceed to the district in question, and thoroughly explore the course of the river alluded to.

Unavoidable delay has occurred in the execution of this work, but it has now been concluded, and Vice-Consul Johnston—a summary of whose Report, accompanied by a chart, is herewith inclosed for the information of the Imperial Government—suggests that the most satisfactory delimitation of the boundary between the British and German Protectorates would be for the western limit of German rule in the Cameroons to follow the left bank of the Rio del Rey from the sea to the mouth of the Ndiañ River, and then continuing along the left bank of the main stream of the Ndiañ as far as the source of that river, to follow a straight line drawn in a north-easterly direction from the source of the Ndiañ to the rapids of the Cross River, an approximate distance of 40 miles.

The Vice-Consul observes that the Ndiañ River is in many respects a suitable boundary, as it marks a distinct ethnographical frontier. On the northern side the ruling inhabitants mainly belong to the Calabar tribes, and speak the Efik language or tongues akin thereto; at any rate (with the exception of a few struggling Barondo Settlements of semi-slaves) they all agree in not being Bantu, and all their trade is directed to Old Calabar.

On the southern side of the Ndiañ the Calabar Settlements are only, as far as he could ascertain, two in number, and the bulk of the population consists of purely Bantu tribes, such as the Barondo and Bakundu, who, in their language, physique, superstitions, and customs are related to the people of the Cameroons, the Congo, and the South-west Coast, and to the races of the Great Lakes, the Zambezi, the East Coast, Zululand, and Natal. With the exception of the two Calabar Settlements the greater part of the commerce south of the Ndiañ River is carried on with the Cameroons.

Her Majesty's Government, having carefully considered Vice-Consul Johnston's propositions for the solution of this difficulty, consider the suggestion that he has put forward a fair one both on ethnological and geographical grounds, and such as might properly be adopted.

I have, accordingly, to request your Excellency to propose to the Imperial Government that the boundary of the Ndiañ should be adopted as a settlement of the question at issue.

I transmit also, for your own information, a printed copy of Vice-Consul Johnston's Report *in extenso*.* You should not communicate this copy to the German Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 224.

Summary of Vice-Consul Johnston's Report of August 9, 1887.

DURING the course of the months of February and March, Mr. Johnston visited and mapped almost the whole district lying between Old Calabar and the base of the Cameroons Mountains, and the results of his surveys are embodied in the accompanying chart.

He reports that the region stretching from Old Calabar and the Cross River to the base of the Cameroons Mountains is very interesting from an ethnological point of view, because it is, on the West Coast of Africa, the borderland of the Bantu. South of the River Ndiañ, which flows into the Rio del Rey, the population, with the exception of a few scattered Colonies of Calabar traders, belong in race and language to the great Bantu family, which stretches uninterruptedly eastward and southward from the Cameroons to Zanzibar and to Natal. North of the Ndiañ River, that interesting belt extending across the Continent of Africa southward of the Sahara Desert from Senegambia to Abyssinia is entered upon, which may be conveniently known by its Arab name, the Soudan.

The Old Calabar River rises in the Uyaña Hills, in about latitude 5° 42', flows nearly parallel with the Cross River, of which it is an affluent, and joins the estuary of this stream about 27 miles from the sea.

The Akwa River is another affluent of the Great Calabar estuary. It also rises in that chain of mountains which runs almost uninterruptedly in a north-easterly direction from the Cameroons Mountains to the Cross River. From a place named Esu Atu

* See Inclosure 1 in No. 97.

(where the Akwa River in one of its bends approaches within $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the Old Calabar) to its junction with the Calabar estuary, this stream has an average depth of about 10 feet. Above Esu Atu the river is only navigable for canoes, and they cannot travel further than the Ekoñ rapids.

In its upper course the Akwa River flows through the Ekoi country, and the lands along its lower waters are inhabited by the Akwa people and by little colonies of Calabarese. The Akwa River communicates, on the one hand, with the Calabar River by means of a narrow creek, and, on the other, by a most tortuous channel with the Akwayafé River.

The Akwayafé or, perhaps, more correctly, the Akpayafé River, was entirely unknown to Europeans before the recent journey. The exact locality of its source it was not possible to determine, although the course of the stream was followed on foot for a distance of 10 miles beyond the last rapids. When Mr. Johnston left the river to return it had shrunk to a mere brook. The great difficulties incurred in forcing his way through the densely-forested, hilly country bordering the upper waters of this stream compelled him to desist from attempting to fix its exact source. As it was, he had to cut a road through the forest for over 10 miles past the falls in order to penetrate along the upper course of the river. All this country was utterly uninhabited by man.

About a mile below the rapids there is a small village of three houses, and lower down is situated the important trading place of Esu Orrorup. This town is inhabited by Calabar people, and there is overland communication with the Ndiñ River and the country of Rombi to the east.

After leaving Orrorup no other Settlement is met with along the river's banks for a considerable distance, until the large town of Ifiañ is reached on the right bank. Ifiañ is inhabited both by Calabar people and by an indigenous race of people who call themselves "Ifiañ" and are under their own Chief, though living in a kind of vassalage to the Calabarese. From their language they would be akin to the Akwa tribes. Nearly opposite Ifiañ is the outlet of the important Efut Creek, navigable for boats drawing not more than 6 feet as far as the large and flourishing town and plantation of a Calabar man named Ehanen Essen, who is an adherent of the House of Arsibon.

On the left bank of the Akwayafé, some distance below the Efut Creek, is the new and extensive Settlement of the Arsibon, important Calabar Chiefs. On various creeks flowing into the Akwayafé River, they have other small villages and trading stations.

On the right bank is a village about 6 miles below Arsibon Town. It is generally known as "Henshaw Tobie's."

At the back are large and striving plantations. Two little fishing villages are situated on each bank of the Akwayafé River, close to its entrance into the Calabar estuary.

As will be noticed on the Map, the Akwayafé River feeds the Rio del Rey with several important creeks.

The Rio del Rey, in fact, is what may be termed a "huge unnecessary estuary," which serves as a common receptacle for a great number of creeks that are, most of them, little more than the escapes to the overflow of neighbouring rivers.

The only stream which has any right to be considered the true Rio del Rey is the River Ndiñ. This stream descends from the same ridge of highlands that contains the sources of the Old Calabar, Akwa, and Akwayafé Rivers. One Settlement was found on its banks, the prettily-situated town of Ndiñ or Ndiñi.

Some little distance off, on the opposite bank of the stream, there are a few Barondo villages; otherwise this country is almost void of inhabitants.

The Ndiñ River is about 7 feet in average depth, and is navigable for large canoes as far as the falls.

Several creeks connect the Ndiñ River with the large stream called by the Calabar people "Mboma-njinga," by the Bakundu "Beke," and by the English the "Little Rio del Rey."

The Mboma-njinga, or Beke, rises in or near to the little Lake of Mbu in the Rombi country (named on the Maps Balombi ba Mbu, which is simply the designation of the Ba-rombi or Ba-lombi tribes on its banks), and has a very tortuous course of over 100 miles to the sea. It is navigable for canoes in the rainy season as far as the rapids of Kabi.

In one part of its course it widens out into a lake-like expanse, frequented by many hippopotamuses.

On the northern shore of this marshy sheet of water is the important town of Ngoñgo, which carries on an overland trade, principally in slaves, with Calabar.

After flowing through the populous Bakundu country the River Beke or Mboma-njinga skirts the Rombi Mountains, and descends in a series of rapids into the marshy plain of their base, afterwards winding in a most tortuous manner till it finally discharges through several branches into a fine broad estuary, which is also fed by other streams.

The lower rapids of the Mboma-njinga are, it is believed, easily passed by canoes in the rainy season, and direct water communication thus exists between Ngoŋgo and the sea.

The Mboma-njinga River may be regarded as lying quite outside the sphere of British influence. There are, it is true, a few Calabar men who visit its banks for trade, but nearly all the commerce is carried on with the Duala traders of the Cameroons River.

Foreign Office, October , 1887.

Inclosure 2 in No. 224.

Map of the Rio del Rey.

[See Inclosure 2 in No. 97.]

No. 225.

Foreign Office to Acting Consul Johnston.

(No. 25. Africa.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 28, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 9, Africa, of the 14th July last, containing an interesting Report of your visit of exploration to the Rio del Rey, and, in reply, I am to express to you his Lordship's approval of the careful manner in which you have performed the duty intrusted to you.

I am to add that your wishes with regard to the Map will be borne in mind, but that it must first be utilized for the negotiations which have to be concluded with Germany respecting the boundaries of the British and German Protectorates on the West Coast.

A copy of your despatch, accompanied by the Map on a reduced scale, is herewith transmitted to you.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 226.

Foreign Office to Acting Consul Johnston.

(No. 26. Africa.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 28, 1887.

MESSRS. COTTERELL & CO., of Liverpool, have recently brought before the Marquis of Salisbury the fears of the Chiefs and people of Bonny, that they may be excluded from the privileges which will accrue to white traders from the opening up of the markets to the rear of Opobo, whenever effected. They have been informed that the rights of natives will not be forgotten in any arrangement which may be made, and I am now to point out to you that it is very desirable that further Treaties, similar to that which you have already made with Obako, should be concluded with the Chiefs owning the other markets in the neighbourhood and to the rear of Opobo. You will lose no opportunity of doing so.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

Aborigines Protection Society to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

My Lord,

Broadway Chambers, Westminster, October 31, 1887.

ON behalf of the Committee, I have the honour to write to your Lordship concerning the events that have lately taken place on the Opobo River, and which have led to the deportation of King Ja Ja to Accra.

Mr. Stephen Beresford Rhodes, a native merchant on that river, has made to the Committee the following statement:—

He says that when, after the Berlin Conference, Her Majesty's Government sent Consul Hewett to establish a British Protectorate over the Oil Rivers, the Protectorate was proclaimed in Ja Ja's country on condition that Article VI in the Treaty was struck out, and, accordingly, that Article, which allowed all traders, of whatever nationality, to proceed up the river to trade, was omitted, and a letter to that effect was delivered to the King in the Consul's own handwriting.

It was the custom of the merchants to make presents in goods to the large traders, including Ja Ja himself, with whom they had transacted business. Some time after the Protectorate Treaty was signed the merchants objected to make these presents, and the King did not insist that they should be made. The Consul, however, required him not only not to take the presents in future, but to refund the value of all those he had received for many years previously. This he did, at the same time remarking that, if he had done wrong in taking the presents, the fact should have been made known to him long before.

Mr. Rhodes states that two years ago (1885), during the depression of the oil trade, the agents of the English houses urged Ja Ja to consent to reduce prices. He agreed to do so, subject to the payment of his commission, as well as that of the other middle-men who were engaged in trading with the people of the interior. The European traders were willing to make the stipulated payments to the King, but, with the exception of one firm, they declined to meet his wishes as to the other middle-men. The traders then proceeded to the interior on their own account, but the natives refused to have anything to do with them. They attributed their unsatisfactory reception to underhand proceedings on Ja Ja's part, and appealed to Consul Johnston. He came to Opobo in a vessel of war, and on seeing Ja Ja required him to sign an Agreement allowing the Europeans to trade directly with the natives of the interior, and depriving him of the power to levy duties on the oil shipped. He was also made responsible for any difficulties which might arise between the Europeans and the natives of the interior.

Ja Ja called the attention of the Consul and of Captain Hand, the Senior Naval Officer on the station, to the fact that the Treaty contravened the one entered into with Consul Hewett; but Mr. Johnston declined to recognize the old Treaty, and required the King to sign the new one, under the threat of compelling him to defray all the expenses attendant upon the visit of the gun-boat, as well as those incurred by the merchants who had asked for his interference.

The King, on the advice of the Senior Naval Officer, signed the Treaty, but a quarter of an hour afterwards served on the Consul a written protest, at the same time sending a copy of the same to the Foreign Office.

The Consul then accompanied Captain Hand in the "Electro" up the river, the "Goshawk" following, with a view to the establishment of a trading post; but they were unable to come to terms with the people, who, it is said, behaved with some degree of violence. The Consul attributes this resistance to Ja Ja's influence, but Mr. Rhodes feels absolutely certain that they acted on their own impulse, and without being instigated by the King. He is confident that no Opobo men took part in the affair, and that the only natives concerned in it were those of the interior, who viewed with distrust the action of the authorities. The Consul, however, returned to Opobo town, blockaded it on the 18th August, and subsequently arrested Ja Ja, who was conveyed to Accra, where he now is. Mr. Rhodes urges that Ja Ja was strictly within his right in wishing to adhere to the Protectorate Treaty; and that in sending his son and three Chiefs to England, just before his arrest, in order to lay his case before your Lordship, he showed his confidence in British justice.

It seems desirable to state that when, on the previous occasion, the European merchants endeavoured, although unsuccessfully, to hold direct relations with the interior, Ja Ja issued a Proclamation that, if they were interfered with, the offenders would be severely punished. Mr. Rhodes states that the traders took with them several interpreters, including a native woman, a washerwoman, who had been dismissed from Ja Ja's service,

and expelled from his town. The traders accepted her version of what the natives said in preference to that of the other interpreters, who gave a totally different account of what occurred. It, therefore, becomes of importance to know whether she was the interpreter who accompanied Consul Johnston. It is manifest that gentlemen who have no knowledge whatever of the language of the country are necessarily dependent upon the good faith of the interpreter, who is generally a clerk, and, therefore, a person of some education and responsibility. It is, therefore, hoped that Her Majesty's Government will take steps to ascertain what degree of credit should be attached to any statement made by the interpreter in the present instance.

Mr. Rhodes further complains, that, at the meetings called by the Consul, none of the native merchants, although they are British subjects from Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast, and Lagos, were allowed to be present. It does not seem right that such an invidious distinction should be made between different classes of Her Majesty's subjects. Mr. Rhodes is of opinion that, if the native merchants had been invited to attend these meetings, all the difficulties that have arisen would have been avoided. It is also stated that some of the European traders have sold Gatling guns and Sniders to Ja Ja, but that the natives, who have been excluded from the Consular meetings, have never sold him any such deadly weapons.

Mr. Rhodes, who is a man of good reputation on the coast, and speaks with evident sincerity, says that the removal of Ja Ja from his country, and the consequent destruction of the only native authority which the negroes of the interior respect, will destroy the trade which has hitherto been carried on peacefully, and with advantage to all concerned.

The Committee respectfully submit this statement for your Lordship's consideration, in the belief that you will make the necessary inquiries, and see that justice is done.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. W. CHESSON, *Secretary*.

No. 227.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Cotterell and Co.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, October 28, 1887.

WITH reference to your letter of the 5th instant regarding the trade of the people of Bonny with the interior of Opobo, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to state to you that Her Majesty's Government are now doing their best to open up the markets in question, and that when they succeed the interests of the natives will not be overlooked.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 228.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received October 29.)

Sir,

Admiralty, October 28, 1887.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will state to the Marquis of Salisbury that a telegram has been received from the Commander-in-chief on the Cape of Good Hope and West Coast of Africa Station, dated the 27th instant, stating that he would leave Simon's Bay for Accra on the 10th November.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

No. 229.

Foreign Office to Acting Consul Johnston.

(No. 27. Africa.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 31, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to state to you that his Lordship approves your conduct with regard to your recent transactions in the difficulty with King Ja Ja, as reported in your despatch No. 18, Africa, of the 24th-28th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 230.

Acting Consul Johnston to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 19. Africa.)

My Lord,

Christiansborg Castle, Accra, October 4, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a letter addressed by me to his Excellency the Administrator of the Gold Coast Colony, proposing an arrangement for the support of King Ja Ja, of Opobo, while that person remains under the charge of the authorities of the Gold Coast.

I also inclose a copy of his Excellency's reply, approving the proposed arrangement, subject to your Lordship's sanction.

As your Lordship will observe, I have directed the Colonial Government to ask for reimbursement of the expenditure I have temporarily authorized from the Foreign Office (through the Crown Agent of the Colony). On my part, I will engage to collect and transmit King Ja Ja's "comey" to your Lordship during such time as Ja Ja may remain absent from Opobo.

This "comey," as pointed out in my despatch No. 18 of the 28th September, is computed to amount to, at the present time, about 600*l.* a-year. There are also arrears of "comey" to be drawn on, because the merchants whose trade Ja Ja stopped, and whose presence at the markets outside his territory he opposed, have ceased to pay their "comey" for over a year, although they promised to resume the payment the instant Ja Ja removed his opposition to their trade, or as soon as he was removed from Opobo.

As your Lordship will observe, I am at present allowing Ja Ja, for his lodging and maintenance at Accra, funds at the rate of 493*l.* a-year. I have left a margin of about 100*l.* to cover incidental expenses in connection with Ja Ja at Opobo. A strict account shall be rendered of this sum.

On the 3rd October Messrs. Miller Brothers, of Glasgow, who act as Ja Ja's agents, telegraphed to him that Lord Salisbury repudiated the Consul's action, and that Ja Ja would return to Opobo by the next steamer. Ja Ja, of course, was triumphant, and consequently difficult to manage. Of course, neither his Excellency the Administrator of the Gold Coast nor myself believed such a statement, but it nevertheless caused us much trouble in dealing with Ja Ja, and obliged me to defer my departure for Opobo till to-morrow.

I can only say that if by any chance Ja Ja were allowed to return to Opobo before the hearing by your Lordship of the charges I have to bring against him, it would mean a prolonged and disastrous war between Bonny, Opobo, and the Ibo countries, the complete stoppage of trade, and the ruin of that portion of our Protectorate.

I respectfully ask for time and an assurance from your Lordship that no step will be taken to remove Ja Ja from the safe guardianship of the Gold Coast Colony until I have placed before your Lordship a full statement of the various charges brought against the King of Opobo. My health has been so seriously affected—not by the climate, but by physical fatigue, overwork, anxiety, and worry—that if I took the advice of my doctor I should apply for leave of absence; but so long as I have reason to believe that your Lordship reposes confidence in me, nothing will induce me to leave the district of which I am placed in charge until I have effected a complete, final, and satisfactory solution of the Opobo difficulty, which has so long lain as a stumbling-block in the way of the prosperity and advancement of our Protectorate over the Oil Rivers.

I have decided to leave for Opobo to-day in the mail-steamer, travelling via Bonny through the creeks. As soon as I have reached Opobo I shall proceed to take down the affidavits of the persons who have evidence to offer for and against Ja Ja's recent behaviour. As soon as the case is thoroughly worked up, the results will be submitted to your Lordship for your consideration.

In conclusion, I cannot help remarking that I should find my task lightened and my anxieties lessened if I received from your Lordship a telegraphic despatch assuring me that no steps would be taken to effect Ja Ja's removal from the Gold Coast until after the receipt and consideration of the evidence respecting his recent actions which I am now on my way to collect. With all possible despatch, it may be one month hence before this task is completed, and another month before its results are placed in your Lordship's hands. I feel sure also that, were your Lordship to intimate to King Ja Ja that it may be two or three months before the final decision on his case can be given, and that during that time he would do well to live quietly and patiently at Accra, and not engage in any conspiracy at Opobo nor compromise himself by any unwise agitation, the cares devolving on his Excellency the Administrator of the Gold Coast would be lightened.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 230.

Acting Consul Johnston to Administrator White.

Sir,

Christiansborg Castle, Accra, October 3, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency, for approval, the following arrangement for the maintenance of King Ja Ja and such other persons connected with him whom from time to time Her Majesty's Government may consider it advisable to place under the supervision of the authorities of the Gold Coast Colony:—

1. That a house of suitable dimensions and situation shall be assigned to King Ja Ja as his residence during the time of his detention on the Gold Coast, and that the rent and all charges whatsoever connected with King Ja Ja's occupancy of the said house shall not exceed annually the sum of 80*l.*
2. That servants, such as a cook and a washerman, shall be provided for King Ja Ja, and that the entire sum of their wages shall not exceed the amount of 4*l.* a-month.
3. That King Ja Ja shall receive subsistence money at the rate of 1*l.* a-day

during such time as he shall be residing in any part of the Gold Coast Colony. This allowance may be paid to King Ja Ja or his recognized agent either daily, weekly, or monthly, as the Colonial Treasurer may find most convenient or expedient, but it is not to be paid in advance for a greater period than one month (thirty days).

4. That the expenses connected with the furnishing of King Ja Ja's house be defrayed after the estimate of such expenditure has been approved and countersigned by me.

5. It is understood that the provision for King Ja Ja's lodging and maintenance, as herein detailed, is to be considered sufficient for his household as at present constituted, that is to say, for the King himself and for those of his servants (such as cook and washerman) who are appointed and paid by Government, and, further, for the maintenance and lodging of King Ja Ja's son Sunday, who will presently join his father and reside with him during the pleasure of Her Majesty's Government. Should it be necessary to detain in the Gold Coast Colony any persons connected with King Ja Ja or residing within the jurisdiction of Her Majesty's Consul for the Bights of Benin and Biafra, the expenses connected with their detention and subsistence will be made the subject of a further communication to your Excellency.

6. No further expenditure whatsoever other than that herein stipulated is authorized by me in the present communication, and in the event of the Government of the Gold Coast Colony considering it necessary to incur any expenses on behalf of King Ja Ja or of any persons residing within the Consular district of the Bights of Benin and Biafra which is not included within the provisions of this arrangement, I cannot guarantee the repayment to the Gold Coast Colony of such expenditure, unless it has previously received the sanction of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs or of myself.

7. The accounts of the expenditure herein authorized may be forwarded, together with the necessary vouchers, to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, who will direct the repayment to the Gold Coast Colony of the amount expended.

8. The whole of the foregoing arrangement, having received your Excellency's sanction, will be subject to the approval of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, who may at any time, directly or through any appointed Agent of the Foreign Office, cancel, modify, or extend the provisions herein detailed. In the event of such annulment, modification, or extension taking place, a fortnight's notice will be given to your Excellency before such annulment or alteration of this arrangement takes effect. Until such time as the notice of the cancelling or modifying of these provisions has expired, I will personally guarantee that all the expenses connected with the detention and support of King Ja Ja in the Gold Coast Colony as herein set forth shall be repaid to the Colonial Treasury.

I shall hope to receive from your Excellency the honour of a reply to this communication, informing me whether the arrangement I have proposed meets with your Excellency's approval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 230.

Administrator White to Acting Consul Johnston.

Sir,
Government House, Victoriaborg, Accra, October 3, 1887.
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of this day's date, informing me of the provisional arrangements which, after discussion with me, you propose, subject to the approval of Her Majesty's Government, should be adopted with regard to the maintenance of King Ja Ja, his son Sunday, and other persons connected with him in this Colony.

2. I have much pleasure in conveying to you my concurrence in those arrangements, which appear to provide for all necessary expenditure so far as we can at present foresee.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRED. B. P. WHITE, Colonel.

No. 231.

Foreign Office to Chairman, Court of Equity, Old Calabar.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, November 2, 1887, 6 P.M.

PLEASE forward following Johnston:—

“Admiral proposed leaving Simon’s Bay for Accra 10th November.”

No. 232.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

(Confidential.)

Foreign Office, November 2, 1887.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to request that you will call the attention of Secretary Sir H. Holland to the question of the administration of the British Protectorate in the Oil River district on the West Coast of Africa.

Sir H. Holland is aware that the territory under Her Majesty’s protection in that district extends on the coast from the River Benin, up to which the Lagos Protectorate has been recently brought, to the frontier of the German Protectorate in the Cameroons; in the interior it covers also all the territory under the jurisdiction of the Royal Niger Company on the River Niger and Benue.

It had been thought possible that the traders settled in the Oil River district might have come to terms with the Niger Company, and thus have paved the way for bringing the whole Protectorate under the Charter granted to the Company. At present, however, this arrangement does not appear to be practicable; the traders are not disposed to negotiate with the Company, which would not be ready to increase its jurisdiction on the coast in face of their hesitation or opposition.

Under the existing system the duty of keeping the coast quiet is intrusted to a Consular staff; but they have not at their disposal any revenue or any military force. Judicial powers are given by the West African Order in Council, but there are no administrative powers, and the position of the Consular officers in this respect is unchanged since the declaration of the Protectorate.

The Niger Company hold on the coast the Nun or main mouth of the Niger only; but the British Protectorate extends over all the remaining mouths of the Niger and over those of the Old Calabar or Cross River. In the interior the Protectorate is at present of little depth except as regards the territory administered by the Niger Company.

A certain importance attaches to the district from a commercial point of view, and it is estimated by Consul Hewett, by Vice-Consul Johnston, and by the principal Liverpool traders, that a customs revenue of from 50,000*l.* to 70,000*l.* might be raised without difficulty.

There are undoubted inconveniences in the absence of a regular Administration. Duties are thrown upon the Consular officers which do not belong properly to their functions, and which they can hardly avoid carrying out by summary and irregular acts of power. If without serious cost or undue risk a better equipped system of government could be established, it would, in Lord Salisbury’s view, be of considerable advantage to the merchants, by whom the commerce on that coast is conducted. On the other hand, he does not feel competent to pronounce on the amount of the expense that would be incurred by the establishment of a regular Colonial Government, with the military force which would be necessary to secure the Settlement against any risk of being dragged into a native war. He trusts that the matter will receive the careful consideration of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 233

Foreign Office to Acting Consul Johnston.

(No. 28.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 4, 1887.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 27 of the 31st ultimo, respecting the inquiry which is shortly to be held by the Commander-in-chief on the Cape of Good Hope Station into the conduct of King Ja Ja, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you herewith, for your convenience, a collection of the correspondence which has passed during the last year and a-half on the subject.*

A duplicate copy has been forwarded to Sir W. Hunt-Grubbe.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 234.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 4, 1887.

WITH reference to your letter of the 26th ultimo, respecting the inquiry which is shortly to be held by the Admiral Commanding-in-chief on the Cape of Good Hope Station into the conduct of King Ja Ja, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you herewith a despatch on the subject which has been addressed to the Acting British Consul;† and I am to request that you will move Secretary Sir H. Holland to cause it to be forwarded by the mail of to-day to the Governor of the Gold Coast, with instructions to him to deliver it at once to Mr. Johnston if he should be at Accra, or, if not, immediately after his arrival.

If the Admiral should proceed to any point to meet Mr. Johnston, the Governor should ask him to be good enough to take charge of the despatch and deliver it.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 235.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 4, 1887.

WITH reference to your letter of the 28th ultimo, respecting the inquiry which is shortly to be held by the Commander-in-chief on the Cape of Good Hope Station into the conduct of King Ja Ja, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you herewith a collection of the correspondence which has passed during the last year and a-half on this subject;‡ and I am to request that you will move the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to cause it to be forwarded to Admiral Sir W. Hunt-Grubbe for his information and guidance.

A duplicate copy has been forwarded to Acting Consul Johnston.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 236.

Foreign Office to Chairman of Court of Equity, Bonny.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, November 5, 1887, 5.20 P.M.

PLEASE forward following to Johnston:—

“You must leave all evidence ready for personal communication to Admiral at Accra or elsewhere.

“Ja Ja will remain at Accra pending inquiry.”

* Niger Correspondence, Part I.—Nos. 1, 20, 58, 59, 76, 77, 96, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 109, 111, 112, 114, 116, 117, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 125, 127, 128, 142, 144, 145, 146, 147, 149, 155, 156, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 190, 191, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 226, 227, 229, 230, 231.

Part II.—Nos. 1, 2, 3 (one Confidential), 7, 16, 20, 27, 31, 35, 42, 62, 65, 69, 74, 78, 82, 83, 84, 99, 100, 101.

† No. 233.

‡ See List in Note *.

No. 237.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 5, 1887.

WITH reference to my letter of yesterday's date, respecting the inquiry which is to be held by Admiral Sir W. Hunt-Grubbe into the conduct of King Ja Ja, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to state to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that a telegram has this day been dispatched to Acting Consul Johnston instructing him to communicate to Sir W. Hunt-Grubbe all the evidence on the subject he may have collected by the time that officer reaches the coast; and also that Ja Ja will remain at Accra pending the inquiry into his conduct.

In laying this letter before their Lordships, I am to request that you will move them to inform the Admiral, by telegraph, of the instructions that have been thus given to Mr. Johnston, at the same time asking him to arrange a place of meeting with him.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 238.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 7.)

Sir,

Admiralty, November 4, 1887.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date, forwarding a collection of the correspondence which has passed during the last year and a-half on the subject of the troubles which have arisen at Opobo between King Ja Ja and the British traders; and I am to request that you will state to the Marquis of Salisbury that this correspondence has been sent to Rear-Admiral Sir W. Hunt-Grubbe.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

No. 239.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet.

(No. 259. Africa.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 23, 1887.

WITH reference to the despatch No. 244, Africa, addressed to your Excellency on the 28th ultimo, I have to acquaint you that Baron von Plessen called on the 18th instant, and stated, on behalf of the Imperial Government, that Acting Consul Johnston's proposition with regard to the River Ndiā forming the boundary between the English and German Protectorates to the west of the Cameroons had been referred to the German Governor of that district, and that, consequently, the Imperial Government reserved their reply until the Governor's Report had been received.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 240.

Foreign Office to Acting Consul Johnston.

(No. 29.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 23, 1887.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 9 of the 14th July last, giving the result of your expedition to the Rio del Rey, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to

The Marquis of Salisbury to Acting Consul Johnston.

(No. 29 A.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 25, 1887.

HER Majesty's Government have in due course received the various despatches addressed by you to this Office since your arrival in the Opobo River in the month of July last for the purpose of inquiring into the conduct of King Ja Ja. The main facts gathered from your despatches are briefly as follows:—

The British merchants trading in Opobo and its neighbourhood, with the exception of the firm of Miller, Brother, had complained that their trade with the markets of the interior was stopped by the action of Ja Ja, notwithstanding that that Chief had been informed by Her Majesty's Representative that no obstruction would be permitted. It was stated that Ja Ja, himself a successful trader, and possessed of great influence over natives of certain of the trading markets, had used his influence to make them swear an oath, of the nature most binding in their eyes, that they would not trade with any but his own people, threatening them with death in the event of their breaking the oath.

An inquiry into the facts on the spot convinced you that this allegation was true, and it was, indeed, admitted by Ja Ja. You then applied for the moral support of the presence of one or more of Her Majesty's ships.

Pending the arrival of the ships, you visited some of the principal interior markets, including that of Ohombela, the farthest and most important of them; you there learnt that Ja Ja had, notwithstanding his previous acceptance of, and submission to, the Protectorate of Her Majesty, and notwithstanding repeated intimations that his interference outside his own territory would not be permitted, used every exertion to prevent the access of British traders to the interior, having in one instance gone the length of deposing a Chief who had given land to the European traders, and replacing him by a nominee of his own.

On the arrival of two of Her Majesty's ships Ja Ja was summoned to a meeting, at which Captain Hand, the commanding officer, was present. He there signed an Agreement consenting to remove all restrictions on trade, and to break the oath administered to the natives, but no sooner had he affixed his signature than he repudiated the Agreement. You, however, proceeded with Captain Hand, the commanding officer, to Ohombela, where, after considerable obstruction on the part of Ja Ja's men, the ceremony of breaking the oath was formally gone through.

Captain Hand having left the river, you again returned to Ohombela, but met with serious opposition from Ja Ja's men, the chief of whom, Ekike Notsho, was studiously insolent in his behaviour. This man acted as self-constituted spokesman for the Ohombela people, who had at first been afraid to meet you, and his words and action were tantamount to a declaration that the Agreement as to the breaking of the oath was looked on as of no account.

You afterwards succeeded in signing Treaties with the people of Obako, a district on the left bank of the Upper Opobo River. Hearing that they had been threatened by Ja Ja, you started to revisit and reassure them, but you were met with armed resistance and were obliged to withdraw. You had conclusive evidence that this resistance was instigated by Ja Ja and organized by his Chiefs.

You considered the state of things thus created to be so dangerous to the peace and order of the British Protectorate as to call for immediate action, and in this view you appear to have had the full support of all the British traders with the sole exception of Miller, Brother. You consequently decided, in concert with Lieutenant and Commander Pelly, of Her Majesty's ship "Goshawk," to summon Ja Ja to a meeting on the beach at Opobo on the 19th September.

He attended the meeting, accompanied by some 700 men in large canoes, which you had reason to believe were armed. There you submitted terms to him, in which you gave him the alternative of peaceably surrendering to you and accompanying you to Accra, or of being considered and treated as an avowed enemy of the British Government.

Upon reflection he decided to proceed to Accra, and voluntarily placed himself at your disposal on board the "Goshawk."

You then proceeded with him to Accra, where he is detained under a Colonial Ordinance as a State prisoner.

In view of the exigencies of the case, and subject to any future course which may be resolved upon after the Report of Sir W. Hunt-Grubbe have been received, Her Majesty's Government consider that the circumstances fully justify them in ratifying your proceedings.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

SALISBURY.

acquaint you that your proposition with regard to the River Ndiañ, forming the boundary between the English and German Protectorates to the west of the Cameroons has been referred by the German Government to the Governor of the Cameroons.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 241.

Messrs. Field and Weightman to Mr. Stanhope.—(Communicated to Foreign Office by Colonial Office, November 25.)

*Union Bank Buildings, 5, Fenwick Street, Liverpool,
November 19, 1887.*

Sir,

WE have received instructions on behalf of King Ja Ja, of Opobo, in Western Africa, who is at present a prisoner at Accra, in the Gold Coast Colony, to approach Her Majesty's Government with a view to obtaining his release.

The information which we have so far received as to the circumstances of his arrest are very meagre; but it appears that he was invited, on the 17th September, 1887, by the British Vice-Consul at Opobo River, to a friendly meeting at a place named on the river. Our information is that at that meeting he was arrested, and has since been a prisoner.

We are further instructed that early in the present month King Ja Ja's son and two Chiefs (who had been in this country as a deputation from the King to yourself) arrived at Accra on their way from Liverpool to Opobo, and that they were there themselves made prisoners.

We shall be much obliged if you will be good enough to inform us whether we are correctly informed as to the circumstances of King Ja Ja's arrest, the reasons for which that step was taken, and what the pleasure of Her Majesty's Government concerning him is.

We are, &c.
(Signed) FIELD AND WEIGHTMAN.

No. 242.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 25.)

Sir,

Downing Street, November 23, 1887.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I am directed by Secretary Sir H. Holland to transmit to you a copy of a letter from Messrs. Field and Weightman,* asking to be informed of the reasons for King Ja Ja's arrest and deportation; and I am to request you to move the Marquis of Salisbury to cause such answer as he may think proper to be returned to these gentlemen.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 243.

Messrs. Field and Weightman to Colonial Office.—(Communicated to Foreign Office by Colonial Office, November 29.)

*Union Bank Buildings, 5, Fenwick Street, Liverpool,
November 26, 1887.*

Sir,

REFERRING to our letter of the 19th instant, written on behalf of King Ja Ja, of Opobo, who is at present a prisoner at Accra, in the Gold Coast Colony, we should esteem it a favour if you would send us a reply at an early date.

We are, &c.
(Signed) FIELD AND WEIGHTMAN.

* No. 241.

No. 244.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 29.)

Sir,

Downing Street, November 28, 1887.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquis of Salisbury, the accompanying copy of a letter from Messrs. Field and Weightman,* asking for an answer to their previous letter, which was sent to the Foreign Office with the letter from this Department of the 23rd instant, relating to Ja Ja's arrest.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.

No. 245.

Minute by Mr. Wylde.

MR. MILLER, of Glasgow, and of the firm interested in Ja Ja's well-being, called to-day and inquired whether the naval inquiry would soon be commenced, and whether Ja Ja would attend it.

I answered that the Admiral had arrived at Accra, and that there was no reason to think that any delay would ensue. I also informed him that Ja Ja would attend the inquiry. (Admiralty letter of the 28th November.)

Foreign Office, November 30, 1887.

E. W. W.

No. 246.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Field and Weightman.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, December 1, 1887.

IN answer to the two letters which you addressed on the 19th and 23rd ultimo to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, respecting the detention of King Ja Ja at Accra, and which have been forwarded on to this Department to be dealt with, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to inform you that Admiral Sir W. H. Grubbe, who is in command on the West Africa Station, is about to hold an inquiry into the whole of the circumstances connected with this case, and that Her Majesty's Government must therefore defer coming to any decision in the matter till the result of this investigation has been communicated to them.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 247.

Acting Consul Johnston to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 1, 6 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

December 1, 1887, 4:20 P.M.

INQUIRY terminated. Admiral found charges proved after careful investigation. Ja Ja assisted by counsel, who expressed satisfaction at Admiral's impartiality. Admiral deposed Ja Ja; banished him from Opobo; gave him choice of Cape or West Indies for residence. Admiral proceeds with me make detailed tour inspection my Consular district with three gun-boats and river steamer. Trade improving. Protectorate quiet.

* No. 243.

[Some of these despatches are unavoidably out of their order of date, *e.g.*, Nos. 238 G to 238 M, 242 A to 242 C, and 245*.]

No. 238 A.

Messrs. Miller, Brother, and Co. to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 9.)

May it please your Lordship, 55, Waterloo Street, Glasgow, November 8, 1887.

WE have the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, an extract from the letter we have received to-day from our Representative at Opobo, together with copy of a protest the people of Opobo lodged with Acting Consul Johnston. We also inclose copy of a letter received to-day from E. Bannerman, solicitor, Accra, together with the copy of the Consul's letter to Ja Ja, to which he refers.

We take the liberty of expressing to your Lordship the deep regret with which we have learned of Acting Consul Johnston's action in the unfortunate disputes that exist between him and the people of Opobo, and also that the deputation which had the honour of an interview at the Foreign Office on the 13th September have been detained at Accra by his orders.

The kindly assurances which were given to the deputation on that occasion by Sir James Fergusson and Sir Philip Currie have unfortunately been reversed by the Consul's proceedings, and a deep sense of unfairness must remain in the minds of the natives.

We conveyed to Ja Ja and his people, in the strongest manner, our assurance that the investigation promised by Sir James Fergusson would be carried out through an independent naval officer, and that they might rely that the Consul would not be allowed to take any strong and arbitrary proceeding unless some new cause of dispute should arise, and we now feel very strongly that these assurances given to the deputation at the Foreign Office, and confirmed by us to Ja Ja and his people, have been dishonoured through his action.

But while this is our feeling in regard to what the Consul has done, we have continued to assure Ja Ja and the people of Opobo that the Foreign Office will make good all that was said to the deputation, and we have repeatedly urged them to give no cause for the Consul to complain against them, and that the officer to whom you have intrusted the investigation of the disputes will report the true state of matters to your Lordship.

Your Lordship will see from our correspondence the high-handed manner in which the Consul has acted, and the unreasonable threats he has made; and we shall be glad if your Lordship will cable to the Consul instructing him to refrain from unnecessary threats and fines until the naval officer has carried through the investigation, and his Report is in the hands of your Lordship.

We feel very strongly that an unfair advantage is being taken by the Consul in his action towards those people in asking them to do impossible things, and threatening them with fines in the way he is doing. The information we have as to the action of the people of Opobo does not at all confirm the views of the Consul.

We have, &c.

(Signed) ALEX. MILLER, BROTHER, AND Co.

Inclosure 1 in No. 238 A.

Mr. Bannerman to Messrs. Miller, Brother, and Co.

Gentlemen, Accra, West Coast of Africa, October 15, 1887.

KING JA JA of Opobo is here, and desires me to write and tell you that he is a prisoner, as well as his son and two Chiefs, who came out from England by the "Benin" last Tuesday, the 11th instant.

The King was invited to a friendly meeting by the Acting Consul Johnston, and on attending the meeting, as requested, the Consul made a prisoner of him, and brought him up here with him. He is a prisoner at large, and only allowed to go about with a Houssa soldier behind him.

He is residing next door to me, and I am doing all I can for him, but the Governor will not tell us what he has done to be detained here as a prisoner.

[501]

3 B

I inclose you a copy of the Consul's letter, inviting the King to a "friendly" meeting.

I will write further by next mail.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) E. BANNERMAN, *Solicitor*.

Inclosure 2 in No. 238 A.

Mr. Turnbull to Messrs. Miller, Brother, and Co.

(Extract.)

Opobo, October 6, 1887.

CONSUL JOHNSTON stated most distinctly at the meeting held on the 19th September, as reported in my letter of the 20th September, that he had received an ultimatum from the Government, and at once dictated to Ja Ja his terms.

To-day the Chiefs sent in their Protest, as per copy herewith, but I am afraid it will do no good: the Consul will not accept any protest, and it is likely to be returned.

At a meeting held on the 3rd instant the Opobo men were ordered by him to proceed to the interior and see the white men established there, and if they did not comply with his command a fine of 50 puncheons palm oil would be imposed. They intend going to-morrow, but I do not expect white men will do anything. The Consul is expected back in a fortnight, and I hope Ja Ja and his deputation will be with him.

I cannot express my feelings in words strong enough of the way in which this "palaver" is being carried through; it is a cruel, unjust, and unmerciful way of conducting this business: simply if white men are not able to trade with the interior people the trade of the Opobo men will be stopped everywhere; they will not be allowed even to buy food. This is Consul Johnston's terms.

I hope the protest is in due form.

Inclosure 3 in No. 238 A.

Acting Consul Johnston to King Ja Ja.

Sir,

Opobo River, September 17, 1887.

I HAVE to inform you that I have received from Her Majesty's Government full telegraphic instructions respecting the matters now in dispute between yourself and the Consular authority in this district. It is necessary that the communication from the British Government shall be laid before you and your Chiefs without delay, in order that you may give me the decisive answer for which the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs is now waiting. I therefore request you to attend, with all your important Chiefs, a meeting to be held by me at Messrs. Harrison's Beach, Opobo River, on Monday, the 19th September, at 11 o'clock A.M.

I am earnestly desirous that the questions now at issue between us shall be settled in a friendly, temperate spirit, and without recourse to force. I therefore have to inform you that this will be the last opportunity that will be offered you of coming to terms with the British Government, and would impress on you the advisability of not discarding this chance of arriving at a solution of the difficulty.

I must ask you for an immediate answer. As soon as you reply, intimating your readiness and that of your Chiefs to attend the meeting at the hour and on the date mentioned (Monday, the 19th September, 11 A.M.), I will issue a summons to all the leading British subjects in the River to attend, so that all interests may be represented.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 238 A.

Protest.

Sir,

Opobo, October 6, 1887.

HAVING received definite information from England that Lord Salisbury, at the Conference with our Ambassadors, agreed to dispatch an Admiralty officer to inquire

into the troubles here between the white men and ourselves, and that he never sanctioned Consul Johnston to order our King to Accra, we beg to enter this our solemn protest against any proceedings you may take on behalf of the white men here until Ja Ja our King returns.

We agree to go to the markets with the white men at the time stipulated at the meeting held on Monday, the 3rd October, but we go under this protest

Yours truly,
 (Signed) JOHN AFRICA, his × mark,
 FINE BONE, *ditto*,
 SUNDUA WOGO DAPPA, *ditto*, } Members of the Governing
 Council of Opobo.

Witness to signature:
 (In absence of Acting Consul Johnston),
 (Signed) Captain PELLY, H.M.S. "Goshawk,"
 Acting Consul for Opobo.

No. 238 B.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 10.)

Sir, Downing Street, November 9, 1887.
 I AM directed by Secretary Sir Henry Holland to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquis of Salisbury, the accompanying copy of a further despatch from the Officer administering the Government of the Gold Coast, relating to the detention of King Ja Ja and of his son and Envoys.

Sir Henry Holland presumes that the action which Colonel White reports that he had taken may be approved.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 238 B.

Administrator White to Sir H. Holland.

Sir, Government House, Victoriaborg, Accra, October 5, 1887.
 IN continuation of my despatch of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I sent to you on the 1st instant the following telegraphic despatch:—
 "Referring to your telegram of 28th September, Consul arrived yesterday. I entertained person named on friendly terms yesterday evening. No necessity for Ordinance at present; but, at the same time, necessary precautions taken, altered circumstances may arise at any moment."

2. On Ja Ja's arrival I hired a house for him inside the Basel Mission factory yard at Christiansborg, which has often been used for the accommodation of Government officials. I spoke to him in a friendly manner and invited him and Miss Emma Ja Ja-Johnson, his adopted daughter, and an ex-Liberian negress, who has accompanied him, to meet the Acting Consul and the Heads of Departments at dinner, and he professed himself to be satisfied with the arrangements made for him.

3. The next morning, however, he called upon me and complained of his detention. He had, in the meantime, had communication with Mr. Edmund Bannerman, a native solicitor, whose name will be well known in your Department. I replied to him that, so long as he made no attempt to leave this Colony, where he was ordered to reside by Her Majesty's Government, he would be free to move about and enjoy the allowance made to him in the same way as anybody else; but that should he break the parole upon which I put him, in spirit or in act, he would render himself liable to instant confinement and supervision.

4. Should he unfortunately meet with bad advisers, I fear that it may be necessary to pass a detention Ordinance; but otherwise he appeared to me to be willing to accept the situation, and to conform to the position to which his action had reduced him.

5. I inclose copy of a letter which I have received from Mr. Johnston, specifying the terms upon which he proposes that Ja Ja should be maintained in this Government,

together with copy of my reply, concurring in the arrangements in question so far as I was at present able to foresee.

6. I also inclose copy of a further letter which I received subsequently from Mr. Johnston, informing me of the circumstances, owing to which he desires the detention of Sunday Ja Ja and Chiefs Cookey Gam and Shu or Sunju Peterside, who are supposed to be on their way out from England. As reported in my telegram of the 18th ultimo, I propose to remove these people by persuasion, if possible, but if not by force, from the vessel in which they may be embarked, and to detain them here in accordance with Mr. Johnston's requisition, unless, in the meantime, I am otherwise instructed by you.

7. Mr. Johnston returned to Opobo to-day in the steam-ship "Sherbro."

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRED. B. P. WHITE, Colonel.

Inclosure 2 in No. 238 B.

Acting Consul Johnston to Administrator White.

Sir,

Christiansborg Castle, October 3, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency for approval the following arrangement for the maintenance of King Ja Ja and such other persons connected with him whom from time to time Her Majesty's Government may consider it advisable to place under the supervision of the authorities of the Gold Coast Colony:—

1. That a house of suitable dimensions and situation shall be assigned to King Ja Ja as his residence during the time of his detention on the Gold Coast, and that the rent and all charges whatsoever connected with King Ja Ja's occupancy of the said house shall not exceed annually the sum of 80*l*.

2. That servants, such as a cook and washerman, shall be provided for King Ja Ja, and that the entire sum of their wages shall not exceed the amount of 4*l*. a-month.

3. That King Ja Ja shall receive subsistence money at the rate of 1*l*. a-day during such time as he shall be residing in any part of the Gold Coast Colony. This allowance may be paid to King Ja Ja or his recognized agent either daily, weekly, or monthly, as the Colonial Treasurer may find most convenient or expedient, but it is not to be paid in advance for a greater period than the month (thirty days).

4. That the expense connected with the furnishing of King Ja Ja's house be defrayed after the estimate of such expenditure has been approved and countersigned by me.

5. It is understood that the provision for King Ja Ja's lodging and maintenance as herein detailed is to be considered sufficient for his household as at present constituted, that is to say, for the King himself and for those of his servants (such as cook and washerman), who are appointed and paid by Government, and, further, for the maintenance and lodging of King Ja Ja's son Sunday, who will presently join his father and reside with him during the pleasure of Her Majesty's Government. Should it be necessary to detain in the Gold Coast Colony any persons connected with King Ja Ja, or residing within the jurisdiction of Her Majesty's Consul for the Bights of Benin and Biafra, the expenses connected with their detention and subsistence will be made the subject of a further communication to your Excellency.

6. No further expenditure whatsoever other than that herein stipulated is authorized by me in the present communication, and in the event of the Government of the Gold Coast Colony considering it necessary to incur any expenses on behalf of King Ja Ja, or of any persons residing within the Consular district of the Bights of Benin and Biafra which is not included within the provisions of this arrangement, I cannot guarantee the repayment to the Gold Coast Colony of such expenditure, unless it has previously received the sanction of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs or of myself.

7. The accounts of the expenditure herein authorized may be forwarded, together with the necessary vouchers, to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, who will direct the repayment to the Gold Coast Colony of the amount expended.

8. The whole of the foregoing arrangement, having received your Excellency's sanction, will be subject to the approval of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, who may at any time directly, or through any appointed Agent of the

Foreign Office, cancel, modify, or extend the provisions herein detailed. In the event of such annulment, modification, or extension taking place, a fortnight's notice will be given to your Excellency before such annulment or alteration of this arrangement takes effect. Until such time as the notice of the cancelling or modifying of the provisions has expired, I will personally guarantee that all the expenses connected with the detention and support of King Ja Ja in the Gold Coast Colony as herein set forth shall be repaid to the Colonial Treasury.

I shall hope to receive from your Excellency the honour of a reply to this communication, informing me whether the arrangement I have proposed meets with your Excellency's approval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 238 B.

Administrator White to Acting Consul Johnston.

Sir,

Government House, Victoriaborg, Accra, October 3, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of this day's date, informing me of the provisional arrangements which, after discussion with me, you propose, subject to the approval of Her Majesty's Government, should be adopted with regard to the maintenance of King Ja Ja, his son Sunday, and other persons connected with him in this Colony.

2. I have much pleasure in conveying to you my concurrence in those arrangements, which appear to provide for all necessary expenditure so far as we can at present foresee.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRED. B. P. WHITE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 238 B.

Acting Consul Johnston to Administrator White.

Sir,

Christiansborg Castle, October 3, 1887.

ON the 17th September I addressed to your Excellency the following telegram from Opobo (Bonny):—

"When steam-ship 'Opobo' calls Accra, send on board and remove Ja Ja's Envoys and son Sunday. Detain them safely until receipt of further information. Matter extreme political necessity. Despatch following explains. If Envoys not on board, search every British vessel calling Gold Coast. Telegraph yes, if willing take this step, or if step taken; anxiously await answer; matters here critical."

To this your Excellency was good enough to reply on the 18th September:—

"'Opobo' due Accra 28th; will take action desired, unless Holland telegraphs instructing me otherwise."

My reasons for telegraphing to your Excellency to stop King Ja Ja's Envoys and detain them at Accra were the following:—

1. I considered them in the light of hostages. I had received information from various sources—even from Ja Ja himself—that caused me to believe that, if Ja Ja's Envoys—the Chiefs Cookey Gam, Shu Peterside, and Sunday Ja Ja—received an unfavourable reply to their proposals from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Ja Ja would only await their return to Opobo before placing himself in open enmity with Great Britain, the Power under whose protection and control he had previously placed his territory. Consequently, it was of paramount importance that these Envoys should be detained until the affairs of Opobo had been regulated.

2. In the absence of a large coercive force, the only hold I had on King Ja Ja to induce him to obey the orders of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs—which were that he should leave Opobo under my escort and proceed to Accra—was the intimation that his Envoys would be arrested and detained on the Gold Coast, and that they would not be allowed to proceed until Ja Ja had surrendered. As King Ja Ja regards his son Sunday as his heir, and is much attached to him, this threat was of considerable weight in inducing him to surrender himself to me in a peaceable manner.

3. As the two Chiefs, Cookey Gam and Shu Peterside, have a large and influential following in Opobo, and as their adherents are unable in their leader's absence to take any decided action against the British Government, the mere knowledge of their Chief's detention will suffice to keep them quiet. Under the circumstances at present existing, there is great need for an interval of peace and tranquillity so that the country may quietly settle down, that old quarrels and rancours may be set aside, that trade shall be reopened, and the influence of the British Government strengthened.

4. It being undesirable that Cookey Gam and Shu Peterside shall return to Opobo until they have subscribed to certain conditions, accepted by the other Opobo Chiefs on the 20th September last, I considered it advisable that they should be detained here until they have done so.

5. Until the question of King Ja Ja's return to Opobo or permanent exile has been decided by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, it is necessary that his son, Sunday, should remain with him here in Opobo. His presence in Opobo at the present time would be as prejudicial to a free and unembarrassed inquiry into the charges brought against King Ja Ja as the residence in Opobo of the King himself.

6. No other persons but "Prince" Sunday Ja Ja, Chiefs Cookey Gam and Shu, or Sunju Peterside, need be detained at Accra. On the contrary, it is best that the remainder of the deputation (Albert Ja Ja and others) should proceed to Opobo without landing at Accra or communicating with King Ja Ja at all.

7. As soon as the return to Opobo of all or any of the detained persons is ordered by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, or appears advisable to my own judgment, I will telegraph to you a notification of their freedom to proceed on their journey.

8. As long as Chiefs Cookey Gam and Shu or Sunju Peterside are detained at Accra I will authorize a daily allowance of 5s. or 10s. for the two, which allowance I would ask your Excellency's Government to pay and charge to the Foreign Office. No extra allowance will be made for the lodging and maintenance of Sunday Ja Ja, as provision was made for him in my allowance to King Ja Ja, as detailed in my first despatch of to-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

No. 238 c.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 10.)

Sir,

Admiralty, November 9, 1887.

WITH reference to your letter, dated the 5th instant (which was received on the 7th), respecting the inquiry to be held on the conduct of King Ja Ja, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will state to the Marquis of Salisbury that, in accordance with his Lordship's wishes, the following telegram has been sent to the Commander-in-chief at the Cape of Good Hope:—

"Johnston collecting evidence for you. Ja Ja remains at Accra pending inquiry. Arrange date and place of meeting Johnston and report."

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

No. 238 d.

Foreign Office to Aborigines Protection Society.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 10, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st ultimo relating to the deportation of King Ja Ja from Opobo to Accra, and, in reply, I am to state to you that steps have already been taken for securing a full inquiry on the spot into this matter, which investigation will be conducted by the Admiral commanding on the station.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 238 E.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 12.)

Sir,

Downing Street, November 11, 1887.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I am directed by Secretary Sir H. Holland to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquis of Salisbury, copies of two further despatches from the Officer administering the Government of the Gold Coast Colony on the subject of the detention at Accra of King Ja Ja and his followers.

Sir H. Holland proposes, with Lord Salisbury's concurrence, to advise Her Majesty to confirm and allow the Ordinance No. 16 of 1887.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

JOHN BRAMSTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 238 E.

Administrator White to Sir H. Holland.

Sir,

Government House, Victoriaborg, Accra, October 10, 1887.

IN continuation of my despatch of the 5th instant, I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt yesterday morning (Sunday) of a telegram from you in the following words:—

"Inform Ja Ja that his telegram of the 6th October has been received, but that Her Majesty's Government think it advisable that he should remain at Accra until inquiry is made."

2. I accordingly sent for Ja Ja this afternoon and explained to him your telegram.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

FRED. B. P. WHITE, Colonel.

Inclosure 2 in No. 238 E.

Administrator White to Sir H. Holland.

Sir,

Government House, Victoriaborg, Accra, October 14, 1887.

IN continuation of my despatch of the 13th instant, I have the honour to transmit, for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure, authenticated copy, in duplicate, of an Ordinance which has been passed by the Legislature of this Colony, entitled, "An Ordinance to confer upon the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony the necessary power for the detention of certain political prisoners," together with copy of the Report of the Law Officers thereon.

2. This Ordinance provides for the detention within this Colony for one year of King Ja Ja of Opobo, his son Sunday, and Chiefs Cookey Gam and Shu Peterside, the last three of whom formed that part of the deputation from Opobo for the purpose of waiting upon Her Majesty's Government, which the Acting Consul deemed it desirable should remain at Accra pending the result of inquiry into the conduct of the King.

3. I was reluctantly compelled to lay the Ordinance before the Legislative Council upon finding that Ja Ja, notwithstanding the warning conveyed to him by me, as reported in the third paragraph of my despatch of the 5th October, was telegraphing to friends in England with a view to obtaining his release, and had evidently been listening to ill-advised counsel. Having taken this step, and thus broken the parole upon which I had placed him within twenty-four hours of my interview with him, I was constrained to arm the Government with the necessary powers to prevent his escape, and to render it penal to aid and abet him in effecting it, inasmuch as if he had been helped on board one of the American ships or foreign vessels trading along the coast, or had been aided to get away into foreign territory, awkward complications might have ensued. He is now furnished with an escort of two Houssas at his residence, who will also exercise surveillance over his movements. In other respects he is as free as before.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

FRED. B. P. WHITE, Colonel.

Inclosure 3 in No. 238 E.

Mr. W. B. Griffith to Administrator White.

Sir,

Victoriaborg, Accra, October 11, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Ordinance No. 16, intituled, "An Ordinance to confer upon the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony the necessary power for the detention of certain political prisoners," to which, in my opinion, the Royal Assent may properly be given.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,

Acting Queen's Advocate.

No. 238 F.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 12.)

Sir,

Admiralty, November 11, 1887.

WITH reference to your letter of the 5th instant relative to the arrangements which the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs considers advisable for ensuring the meeting between Rear-Admiral Sir Walter Hunt Grubbe and Acting Consul Johnston in connection with the inquiry to be held into the conduct of King Ja Ja, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to forward, for the information of Lord Salisbury, the following copy of a telegram which was received yesterday from the Admiral, viz. :—

*"Simon's Town, November 10, 1887.**"Shall be Accra 26th; request Johnston to meet me."*

I am, &c.

(Signed)

EVAN MACGREGOR.

No. 238 G.

Sir E. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 14.)

(No. 95. Africa.)

My Lord,

Berlin, November 10, 1887.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 244, Africa, of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose the copy of a note which I addressed to Count Bismarck on the 4th instant, proposing to the German Government that the boundary of the Ndiān River should be adopted as a settlement of the question at issue regarding the spheres of influence of the British and German Protectorates on the West Coast of Africa.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 238 G.

Sir E. Malet to Count Bismarck.

M. le Comte,

Berlin, November 4, 1887.

WHEN the separate spheres of influence of the British and German Protectorates on the West Coast of Africa were arranged between the two Governments, it was agreed that the line of demarcation should be the Rio del Bey from its mouth to its source, and a line from the source to the rapids on the Cross River.

As your Excellency is aware, doubts subsequently arose on both sides as to whether the Rio del Rey had been correctly traced on the charts, upon which negotiations had been based.

With a view to the settlement of this difficulty, Her Majesty's Government thought it expedient to instruct Her Majesty's Vice-Consul, Mr. Johnston, to proceed to the district in question and to thoroughly explore the course of the river alluded to.

In compliance to instructions which I have received from Her Majesty's Principal

Inclosure 4 in No. 238 c.

No. 16, 1887.—GOLD COAST COLONY.

In the Fifty-first Year of the Reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

Colonel FREDERICK BENJAMIN PRICE WHITE, *Administrator*.

An Ordinance to confer upon the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony the necessary Power for the Detention of certain Political Prisoners.

[6th October, 1887.]

Date.

WHEREAS it is expedient that certain persons, that is to say, Ja Ja, Sunday Ja Ja, Cookey Gam, Shu Peterside, hereinafter called the said political prisoners, should be detained in this Colony during Her Majesty's pleasure;

Preamble.

Be it therefore enacted by the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:—

Enactment.

1. All acts done, permitted to be done, or sanctioned by the Governor with respect to the arrest and detention of the said political prisoners, or any of them, prior to the passing of this Ordinance, are hereby declared to be legal and valid as if the same had been done, permitted to be done, or sanctioned under the authority of the Legislature of the Colony, and no proceedings calling in question the legality of such acts shall have any effect whatsoever.

Past acts legalized.

2. It shall be lawful for the Governor to order the detention of the said political prisoners, or any of them, during Her Majesty's pleasure in any suitable place within the Colony, and from time to time to change such place of detention.

Governor may authorize detention of political prisoners.

3. A warrant under the hand of the Governor addressed to any District Commissioner or to any person having charge of any of Her Majesty's forts or prisons in the Colony shall be sufficient authority for the District Commissioner or person named therein to detain the said political prisoners, or any of them, and such warrant addressed to the master of any ship or to any other person shall be a sufficient authority to the person named therein to convey the said political prisoners, or any of them, to the place named therein, and to deliver them, or any of them, into such custody as may be named in the said warrant.

Warrant of Governor authority for detention of political prisoners.

4. The said political prisoners, or any of them, may at any time during their detention be removed from any one place of detention before mentioned to any other place by warrant under the hand of the Governor addressed to the master of any ship or any other person, and the master of any ship or any other person to whom such warrant is addressed shall have power to convey the said political prisoners, or any of them, to such place and to deliver them, or any of them, to such authority as may be named in such warrant.

Removal of political prisoners.

5. The said political prisoners, or any of them, shall, if detained in any of Her Majesty's forts or prisons, be under the legal custody of the person having charge thereof, or if detained in any other place within the Colony, shall be under the legal custody of the District Commissioner of the district within which such place may be situate.

Custody of political prisoners.

6. Any person aiding, or attempting to aid, the said political prisoners, or any of them, to escape or to attempt to escape from any place where they, or any of them, may be so detained as aforesaid, shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be liable, on conviction, to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding two years.

Penalty for aiding escape of political prisoners.

7. No writ of *habeas corpus* or other process calling in question the legality of the arrest or detention of the said political prisoners, or any of them, or of any other matter connected therewith, shall have any effect within the Colony.

No writ of *habeas corpus* to issue.

8. This Ordinance shall be and shall remain in force during a period of one year and no longer, such period to commence from the date when the Governor shall give his assent in writing to the said Ordinance.

Duration of Ordinance.

Short title.

9. This Ordinance may be cited as the "Opobo Political Prisoners Detention Ordinance, 1887."

Passed in the Legislative Council, this 6th day of October, in the year of our Lord 1887.

(Signed) R. J. NORRIS, *Lieutenant, 1st West India Regiment,*
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

I assent to this Ordinance in the name of Her Majesty, this 6th day of October, 1887.

(Signed) FRED. B. P. WHITE, *Colonel,*
Administrator.

This printed impression has been carefully compared by me with the Bill which has passed the Legislative Council, and found to be a true and correct copy of the said Bill.

(Signed) R. J. NORRIS, *Lieutenant, 1st West India Regiment,*
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that, after an unavoidable delay, Vice-Consul Johnston has now concluded the work intrusted to him, and I am directed to forward to your Excellency, for the information of the Imperial Government, the inclosed summary of his Report, accompanied by a chart.

Mr. Johnston suggests that the most satisfactory delimitation of the boundary between the British and German Protectorates would be for the western limit of Imperial rule in the Cameroons to follow the left bank of the Rio del Rey from the sea to the mouth of the Ndiañ River, and then, continuing along the left bank of the main stream of the Ndiañ as far as the source of that river, to follow a straight line drawn in a north-easterly direction from the source of the Ndiañ to the rapids of the Cross River, an approximate distance of 40 miles.

Mr. Johnston observes that the Ndiañ River is in many respects a suitable boundary, as it marks a distinct ethnographical frontier.

On the northern side the ruling inhabitants mainly belong to the Calabar tribes, and speak the Efik language, or tongues akin thereto; at any rate (with the exception of a few straggling Barondo Settlements of semi-slaves) they all agree in not being Bantu, and all their trade is directed to Old Calabar.

On the southern side of the Ndiañ the Calabar Settlements are, as far as he could ascertain, only two in number, and the bulk of the population consists of purely Bantu tribes, such as the Barondo and Batrundu, who, in their language, physique, superstitions, and customs, are related to the people of the Cameroons, the Congo, and the south-west coast, and to the races of the Great Lakes, the Zambesi, the East coast, Zululand, and Natal. With the exception of the two Calabar Settlements, the greater part of the commerce south of the Ndiañ River is carried on with the Cameroons.

Her Majesty's Government having carefully considered Vice-Consul Johnston's propositions for the solution of this difficulty regard the suggestion which he has put forward as a fair one, both on ethnological and geographical grounds, and such as might properly be adopted.

I have accordingly been instructed by the Marquis of Salisbury to propose to the Imperial Government that the boundary of the Ndiañ should be adopted as a settlement of the question at issue.

In submitting this proposal to your Excellency, I avail, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 238 H.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Miller, Brother, and Co.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, November 14, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters of the 25th ultimo and 8th instant respecting recent proceedings at Opobo.

With regard to the former of these communications, in which you inclose an extract of a Report you have recently received from your Assistant Agent at the place in question, I am to inform you that the information in the possession of the Secretary of State does not bear out the apprehensions you have expressed with respect to the purport of the notice issued by the Acting British Agent.

In answer to your second letter of the 8th instant on the subject of the more recent action which has been taken at Opobo by the Acting British Consul, I am to inform you that, as Admiral Sir W. Hunt Grubbe is believed to be now on his way to Accra for the purpose of commencing his inquiry, Lord Salisbury does not propose to take any further steps in the matter till his Report has been received.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 238 I.

*Verbal Communication by Baron von Plessen, November 18, 1887.**Delimitation of the German and English Spheres of Interest to the West of the Cameroon Protectorate.*

THE Imperial Government have informed the Imperial Governor at Cameroon of the proposal of Mr. Johnston, that the river named "River Ndiafi" on his Map be accepted as frontier, and have requested the Governor's opinion thereon. The Imperial Government reserve their final answer till after the receipt of the Governor's Report.

No. 238 K.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 18, 1887.

WITH reference to your letter of the 11th instant on the subject of the detention at Accra of King Ja Ja and his followers, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of the further correspondence transmitted, and to state to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that his Lordship concurs with Sir H. Holland in thinking that the Ordinance No. 16 of 1887 might properly be confirmed and allowed.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 238 L.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 18, 1887.

WITH reference to the letter from the Colonial Office of the 9th instant, transmitting copy of a despatch from the Officer administering the Government of the Gold Coast relative to the detention of King Ja Ja, his son, and Envoys, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to state, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that Lord Salisbury concurs with Sir H. Holland in the opinion that the action which Colonel White reports that he had taken may properly be approved.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 238 M.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 21.)

(Extract.)

Admiralty, November 18, 1887.

I AM commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, extract from a letter from Captain Hand, of Her Majesty's ship "Royalist," dated at Accra the 19th October, respecting Ja Ja.

Inclosure in No. 238 M.

Captain Hand to Rear-Admiral Sir W. Hunt Grubbe.

(Extract.)

"Royalist," at Accra, October 19, 1887.

I HAVE been informed by his Excellency the Administrator that Ja Ja was brought here by Acting Consul Johnston in steam-ship "Calabar" as a prisoner, and that also the members of the deputation were stopped by him, at the request of the Acting Consul, on their way through to Opobo, and a letter from Mr. Johnston informs me that Ja Ja, having at a palaver held at Opobo on 19th September heard the order of the Foreign

Office, that he was to be removed to Accra pending inquiries into his conduct, gave himself up, and was taken on board the "Goshawk," whence he was transhipped to the "Calabar" for passage to this place. I am now on my way to Opobo, and shall remain in the Bights between Lagos and the Oil Rivers for the present.

There are no rumours of any disturbances on the Gold Coast.

I inclose a copy of a letter just received from the Agent-General of the Royal Niger Company, which furnished the information I had asked for with regard to Jacob Barber, a copy of whose letter I forwarded you by last mail.

No. 242 A.

Messrs. Miller, Brother, and Co. to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

May it please your Lordship, 55, Waterloo Street, Glasgow, November 26, 1887.

WE take the liberty of inclosing, for your Lordship's information, copy of the Minutes of the meeting held at Ohumbla town on 7th October, 1887, between the natives of that place and the European traders, who were accompanied by five Opobo Chiefs, who had been commissioned to proceed there with the Europeans in terms of the Agreement signed by King Ja Ja on 5th August, 1887, a copy of which we sent in our letter of 4th October, 1887.

We also inclose copy of letter by the Senior Naval Officer, J. H. Pelly, Acting Consul *pro tem.*, addressed to the Chiefs of Opobo town, in which he informs them that they had rendered themselves liable to the fine of fifty puncheons, in consequence of the interior markets not having been opened to white men at the expiry of three weeks from September 19th, as Consul Johnston had decreed, reference to which you will find in our letter to your Lordship of 25th October, 1887.

We would respectfully call your Lordship's attention to the letter, dated 17th September, 1887, sent by Consul Johnston to Ja Ja, a copy of which was inclosed in our letter to your Lordship of 8th November, and we now inclose a copy of Minutes of meeting held at Opobo on 19th September, 1887.

We desire to point out to your Lordship, that the said Minutes appear to show that Consul Johnston gave Ja Ja two options—either to surrender at once, or to leave the meeting as an open and declared enemy of the British Government, and that as Ja Ja was not then and is not now an enemy of the Queen, he surrendered himself instead of being proclaimed an enemy. This letter of the Consul's, and the Minutes of the meeting just referred to, appear to us so contradictory of the friendly assurances given by Sir James Fergusson and Sir Philip Currie, that we have formed the opinion that the Consul in his letter to Ja Ja must have misrepresented the views of your Lordship, and followed a course of action of his own.

If the Consul was carrying out instructions received by him, we are unable to reconcile these with the assurances given on 13th September.

Your Lordship will, ere this, be in possession of the circumstances under which King Ja Ja was induced to place himself in the Consul's power, and of the arbitrary acts by which the deputation, which had the honour of the interview at the Foreign Office on 13th September, are now along with King Ja Ja detained at Accra as political prisoners. If your Lordship will refer to the written statement of their case, which the deputation from Opobo supplied to the Foreign Office prior to the meeting of 13th September, you will find that the Livingstone Treaty of 1873, the Treaty of Protectorate of 1884, and the letter by Consul Hewett of 1st July, 1885, addressed to King Ja Ja, all recognize the King as an independent Sovereign, and we are of opinion that your Lordship will come to the conclusion that the treatment of which King Ja Ja and his people have been subjected by the Consul, and the detention of King Ja Ja and his Chiefs at Accra as political prisoners, have been unconstitutional, and call for redress.

King Ja Ja and his Chiefs wish to know why they have been arrested and detained as political prisoners, what is the nature of the political offence committed by them, and when such an offence was committed. At present they are prisoners without an indictment.

In our communications to King Ja Ja and his Chiefs we have, as we stated in a former letter, assured them that their whole case is receiving your Lordship's earnest and friendly consideration, and that in order to ascertain the true facts of the whole case, you had instructed the Admiral of the station to make a searching inquiry into all the circumstances, and that, on having the Admiral's Report, your Lordship would bring the

matter to a close; but we beg to remind your Lordship that it is now upwards of two months since Ja Ja's arrest and removal from his country, and that there is fear that his lengthened detention at Accra with his Chiefs will be productive of very serious complications in his country.

We will be glad if your Lordship can in any way bring the whole matter to a speedy settlement, and to have your Lordship's assurance that the advice we have given to King Ja Ja and his people has correctly represented the intentions of your Lordship.

We have, &c.
(Signed) ALEX. MILLER, BROTHER, AND Co.

Inclosure 1 in No. 242 A.

Minutes of Meeting held at Opobo, September 19, 1887.

AT a Consular meeting held to-day, at which all British subjects in the River attended, the Consul informed Ja Ja that he had received orders from Her Majesty's Government to remove him from the River to Accra pending inquiries into his conduct, and to answer charges brought against him, giving him the option of surrendering at once, or of leaving the Court and going to town, and thus declaring himself an open enemy of the British Government.

After thinking it over Ja Ja decided to surrender, and was removed to the man-of-war.

Opobo, September 19, 1887.

Inclosure 2 in No. 242 A.

Minutes of Meeting held at Ohumbla Town, October 7, 1887.

MR. S. B. HALL opened the meeting by stating that the Queen had taken away Ja Ja, of whom you are afraid, and now we have come to trade with you.

Rose, one of the Ohumbla Chiefs, went to the Consul and replied to above by stating that if the Europeans can show them any written agreement entered into with their forefathers that they have traded with white men, then they, the present Chiefs, will trade with you.

Mr. S. B. Hall then replied that they must lay aside that question, and further stated that the white men now wished to establish at Ohumbla.

Tom Ja Ja, on behalf of the five Opobo Chiefs, then told the Ohumbla Chiefs that they, the Opobo people, and white men, had agreed to trade together at their markets, and we want you to trade with the white men in the same way as you do with us. We do not want any fighting, or to encourage any dispute or confusion, but want trade to go on in a temperate and peaceful spirit.

Ohumbla Chiefs replied to Tom Ja Ja's statement as follows:—Your grandfathers, King Pepple, Anni Pepple, and Lulu Pepple, gave us to understand that we are not to trade with white men, as the white men are Ju Ju.

William Obani next told the Ohumbla Chiefs that the goods they, the Opobo people, sold them were the same goods that they got from the white men: we entertain no ill-feeling at all respecting your trading with the white men.

Ohumbla Chiefs then stated that they had heard enough; that they had never traded with white men, and would not now do so.

Mr. S. B. Hall asked the Ohumbla Chiefs why they had not told the white men before, and not have given them all the trouble of coming up to see them.

Ohumbla Chiefs replied that they did not think the white men really meant trading with them, and that they, the Ohumbla Chiefs, thought it was a good chance for them to get something out of the white men.

Mr. S. B. Hall then replied, All right, we are going.

After the meeting, Mr. Hall and the interpreters took the Ohumbla King aside, and engaged in conversation with him, of which we have no knowledge.

Inclosure 3 in No. 242 A.

Commander Pelly to the Opobo Chiefs.

To the Chiefs of Opobo Town, "Goshawk," at Opobo River, October 10, 1887.

I HEREBY bring to your notice that the three weeks given you to comply with the Consular orders has now lapsed. The only order complied with is the one in which the boom is to be removed from Azuminin Creek.

You will, therefore, consider yourselves liable for the amount of the fine inflicted on you for that portion of Consular orders not carried out.

This matter will be settled on the return of the Consul, who is daily expected.

(Signed) J. H. PELLY, *Senior Naval Officer,*
Acting Consul, pro tem.

No. 242 B.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 28.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, November 28, 1887.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram, dated the 28th November, from the Commander-in-chief, Cape of Good Hope and West Coast of Africa, respecting Ja Ja attending inquiry.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 242 B.

Rear-Admiral Sir W. Hunt Grubbe to Admiralty.

(Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.)

JA JA will attend inquiry. Mails Cape.

Accra, November 28, 1887.

No. 242 c.

Acting Consul Johnston to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 29.)

(No. 21. Africa.)

My Lord,

Opobo River, October 21, 1887.

WITH regard to your Lordship's despatch No 3, Africa (Cameroons Vice-Consulate), of the 29th July, 1887, which, owing to difficulties of communication with Mondole, I have only just received, I have the honour to observe that I am strongly impelled to doubt the possibility of his Excellency the Acting Governor of the Cameroons having forwarded the Report to his Government, complaining of alleged disturbances caused by me in the German Protectorate since the interview I had with his Excellency on the 14th June.

Should, however, your Lordship be right in your supposition, that these complaints were dispatched to the German Government after my stay with the Acting Governor in the middle of June, I can only conclude that his Excellency is a marvel of perverse duplicity. I need hardly assure your Lordship that I have never at any time, since my appointment to the Cameroons Vice-Consulate, "pursued the policy of causing as much disturbance as possible in the German Protectorate." With regard to the more detailed charges brought against me by his Excellency the Acting Governor (I quote from your Lordship's despatch), "that I had announced to the Victorians that they were still British subjects," and "that I had summoned some Victorians before my Court at Mondole, and had threatened them with fines for non-appearance," &c., I can only say they are absolutely untrue. I cannot recall any act of mine affording the least ground for these accusations.

Rumours having reached me at Old Calabar that most of the Victorians were refusing to consider themselves German subjects, and were invoking my support in

favour of their claims to be considered of British nationality, I went straight to the Cameroons River (without even calling at Victoria), and laid the matter before the Acting Governor (in my interview of the 10th June). We came to a most cordial agreement on the subject, and while I expressed a wish to obtain your Lordship's opinion, I willingly consented *ad interim* to the following provisional arrangement:—That all persons residing in the Cameroons Protectorate, who are natives of any portion of the British Empire (excepting the former British possession of Victoria, Amba Bay), or who are officers or agents of the Baptist Mission, and though born in Cameroons are of British parentage, are to be considered British subjects.

The charges above alluded to, which have been brought against me by his Excellency the Acting Governor, were never mentioned at this interview or at any other time. If they had been I should have met them with an emphatic denial. My relations with the Acting Governor have been so uniformly friendly since his assumption of the Administration of the Protectorate of the Cameroons, that I shall be indeed surprised to find that concurrently with his profuse protestations of friendship, and his thanks for my co-operation in various matters, he has been forwarding complaints of my conduct which he must well know are devoid of any foundation in my words or acts.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

No. 245*.

Aborigines' Protection Society to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 1.)

My Lord,

Broadway Chambers, Westminster, November 30, 1887.

I AM directed by the Committee of the Aborigines' Protection Society to address your Lordship a further letter with reference to the affairs of the Opobo River.

Mr. Rhodes informs us that Emma Ja Ja Johnson, the adopted daughter of King Ja Ja, who also acts as his Private Secretary, received permission from the Governor of the Gold Coast to return to Opobo to look after the King's private affairs, as well as those of Mr. Rhodes, all the latter's clerks having been placed under her direction before he left for Europe. When the "Benin"—the vessel in which she was a passenger—arrived at Opobo she was made prisoner by Consul Johnston, and conveyed to Mr. Mitchel Beach's factory. She was allowed to collect her boxes and other private property, being accompanied by Mary Stowe, the interpreter referred to in my last letter. That woman told her that Mr. Rhodes was indebted to natives of Opobo for fifty puncheons of oil, and that the Consul had got instructions from the Home Government to collect the amount. Subsequently, the Consul sent for Miss Johnson, and spoke to her to the same effect. She told him that, so far as she knew, Mr. Rhodes was indebted to Ja Ja for fifteen puncheons only, and that the oil which the Consul supposed Mr. Rhodes was responsible for had really been shipped to England by Mr. Josiah, another trader, on behalf of the natives to whom it belonged. The Consul then took an inventory of all Mr. Rhodes' goods, and sent Miss Johnson away by the steamer that brought her. She is now at Sierra Leone.

These proceedings necessarily derange Mr. Rhodes' business, and involve him in serious loss. He emphatically declares that his only debt on the coast amounts to fifteen puncheons of oil, and that this is a matter of account between him and Ja Ja. We have advised him to return to Opobo to see after his affairs, but he pleads that, even if he were willing to abandon arrangements here, which are necessary to the prosecution of his business, he has no guarantee that, if he were to return to Opobo, he would not be deported as Miss Johnson has been. We learn from the Rev. M. C. Osborn, one of the secretaries of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, that "he has reason to believe that Mr. Rhodes is a trustworthy person, and that his statements may be accepted as reliable." We, therefore, confidently hope that your Lordship will give him an opportunity of defending himself against any charges which may be brought against him.

We desire to point out that, unless your Lordship gives instructions that Miss Johnson's testimony shall be taken at Sierra Leone, a witness of great importance to Ja Ja will be unheard. She has also Mr. Rhodes' books in her possession, and will produce them when required. We hope that your Lordship will not allow the proposed inquiry to be closed until Miss Johnson has been examined.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. W. CHESSON, *Secretary.*

[These despatches should have followed No. 247 on p. 182.]

No. 248.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received December 2.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, December 1, 1887.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram, dated this day, from the Commander-in-chief on the Cape of Good Hope and West Coast of Africa Station.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 248.

Rear-Admiral Sir W. Hunt Grubbe to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

Accra, December 1, 1887, 1:50 P.M.

JA JA deposed; remains Accra present. I proceed Brass, Bonny, Opobo, Monday.

No. 249.

Mr. G. Turner to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

My Lord,

Old Calabar, South-west Coast Africa, October 25, 1887.

UNDER your Lordship's favour, I humbly beg to make this letter a medium of approaching your Lordship, in order to inform your Lordship about the real state of things at Old Calabar.

2. My Lord, this country, for want of good government, groans fearfully under violence and oppression. The Kings and Chiefs, and those who call themselves freemen thereof, though they are by no means friendly amongst themselves, and notwithstanding that by their hatred of one another, civil dissensions, often culminating in bloodshed and murder, are ruining this fine country, unite in oppressing the poor and weak, whom they term their slaves, although it is oftener by violence and outrage, by robbery and plunder, and by the most flagrant injustice than by lawful means that this unfortunate class of people who form the bulk of the population of this region is brought under bondage. For instance, my Lord, some Chiefs here rob the goods and forcibly enslave the family of the dead. Others, founding his claim on some imaginary debt, would on that pretext reduce the family of a once flourishing and respectable house to bondage. Others, again, quite as unscrupulous, would shamelessly tell your Lordship that for a few pieces of cloth and a barrel of rum they have right to make the people of a whole town their slaves, whereas to buy a single slave in Calabar, girl or boy, would cost 1,000 brass rods (equal in English money to 12l. 10s.). I have heard of a Duke Town man who went and seized from a small village seven people, women and boys, in lieu of one goat which had been killed, not by those weak women and powerless boys whom he caught, but by some other strong fellows of the same town, who slew the animal because, unyoked by its owner, it had broken into their farm and destroyed their fruits. This story I have heard from a native of good social standing and of unquestionable probity, as myself can attest, having lived with him four years as his clerk. In the plantation of the same authority I was shown an old woman (since dead) and her son who were amongst those forced into bitter bondage on account of one goat, with whose death they were as much concerned as a babe unborn.

3. The two Kings of Old Calabar, that of Duke Town and that of Creek Town, are bitter enemies; nothing can make them act in concert. Consul Hewett tried in vain to effect a reconciliation between them, whereby they might by their joint efforts govern their country better. The same discordant element affects all the Chiefs of the principal houses in the country, viz., the houses of the Eyambas, the Henshaws, the Archibongs, and the Cobhams.

4. Odök, or, as he styles himself, Duke Ephraim IX, King of Duke Town, is very unpopular. His Chiefs are all against him, make themselves independent, and would not support him. It is right to state, however, that the King's personal character as well as his actions entitle him to little respect. Unjust and oppressive in his dealings himself,

his example is followed by all his Chiefs, and thus it is that he whose business it is to punish those who offend against law and justice is himself lawless and unjust. Consul Hewett always tried to teach him how to govern his country better; always ready to support him in the lawful exercise of his authority, but to no purpose. He has no mind, no love for his country, no kingly dignity. He is a dishonest seeker after money, and the oppressor of the weak. That is all. Moreover, he is the great High Priest of the most hideous form of Jujuism, although the Scotch missionaries here mistakenly represented him as a Christian and supporter of their Church. Eyo, of Creek Town, is a quiet man, has the reputation of being a good Christian, and he is a great pillar of the Creek Town Church; but he also has little authority with his Chiefs, and quite unable to govern his town. I will now mention a few incidents in order to show your Lordship what these Calabar Kings and Chiefs are, as well as what may be expected of them by way of justice. Shortly after Consul Hewett left here for England, Acting Consul Johnston ordered King Odök to have a young native called Esieu Etim Offiong apprehended and brought before the Consular Court. The Consul had summoned Offiong to appear, but he did not. The King could not apprehend the young man, because the latter belongs to the family of the Eyambas, of which the King is afraid. Again, he was ordered to apprehend a man called Egbo Egbo Bassey, a mere slave in the country, but rich, and a father-in-law of the King's. The latter refused to obey the Consul, although Egbo Bassey had beaten Mr. Johnston's boatmen, and, as I heard, insulted the Consul himself. When, however, a man-of-war appeared in the River the King feared, and took Bassey before Consul. A fine of fifty-two boxes of rods was inflicted on him (78*l.*). In the month of September last one, Tom Yellow Duke, a slave of the powerful Chief, Yellow Duke's, had to fly for his life and find refuge in the factory of Messrs. Stuart and Douglas. A lad belonging to Henshaw Town, a small village near Duke Town, went in Tom Yellow's house at a very late hour for the purpose of seducing one of the wives of the latter; indeed, people say Tom caught them in the act. Acting on the impulse of the moment, Tom had the Henshaw Town lad flogged. The latter, smarting with his stripes, ran home and told his father, a Chief of the town. The next morning Henshaw Town people, not caring to have the matter called up and investigated, dispatched peremptory message to the King to have Tom sent to Henshaw Town, to be first flogged, and then made a slave of the boy whom he flogged. The King, fearing the Henshaw Town people, was ready to deliver up Tom to their vengeance, when the latter, by the advice of some friends, fled to the white men in the River for protection. The gentlemen of the Chamber of Commerce met and wrote to the King not to suffer Tom to be touched until the Consul arrive and decide the case. This Tom Yellow being a slave, the King was too willing to deliver him to be punished without having first proved him guilty of any offence. But, my Lord, when some time ago a Prince, called Archibong Edem, flogged to death on a false suspicion his wife and a freeman of the country, neither the Kings nor all the Chiefs together could say a word to him, though, according to their own law, he was guilty of death, and though such a sentence had been passed on him by his own Peers. This murderous Prince was not even fined a single black copper, not a chain was put on his wrist; the case was left to die of itself. So much for Calabar justice, which, as Consul Hewett truly remarked, "is a plant that does not thrive in Calabar ground."

5. Before the erection here of the Consular Court, we black men, natives of British Settlements, used to suffer dreadfully from the Calabar people. In fact, things were little better with us here than with the slaves of the country. Most of us live amongst the people in the town, making our living by various pursuits, such as teaching writing, carpentering, coopering, tailoring, &c. When a quarrel took place between one of us and any of the natives, instead of the matter being taken before the Kings and Chiefs for decision, it is often the case that the solitary British subject is attacked with an overwhelming number of slaves, carrying huge clubs and swords. These savages would beat him fearfully, and then rob him. Even when the poor British subject managed to escape with his life, and to take the matter before the King and any of the Chiefs, he is never to have justice. Lots of slaves would appear to tell lies and to bear false witnesses against him, and what is most painful of all, to abuse and even insult him in the presence of the Judge or Judges, who, instead of punishing them for contempt of Court, would secretly applaud them. Since the erection of the Consular Court things are a little better with us, especially when the Consul is in town, which, alas! is not often the case. These Calabar slaves, backed by their master, are still provoking us, still attacking us with clubs, and occasionally plundering us. My Lord, it is the fashion here for everybody, slave and all, to take the law into his own hands, and thus it is that the poor British subject, whose household consists, perhaps, of himself and his wife, is at a great disadvantage when attacked within his own lodging by ten, twenty, or even thirty

savages with deadly weapons. Your Lordship might be tempted to ask, is there not a King in the country? Yes, my Lord, there is; but what justice can a stranger expect from him who is unjust to his own people, and who once sent over fifty slaves to fight a single Sierra Leone man called James B. Chambers? The latter was so roughly handled by the King's slaves that he was spitting blood for over two weeks.

6. My Lord, the Kings and Chiefs know perfectly well that they are wholly unable, and therefore unfit, to govern their own country, but, unlike Kings Bell and Acqua of the Cameroons, would not say so. From the King to the last beggar in the country knows, however, that without British protection their country must, ere long, go to pieces, torn by civil war, born of oppression. But the Kings, the powerful Chiefs, are too much taken by the profit which accrue to them by their unjust and superstitious Egbo laws, which are a great terror to the weak and helpless. The Kings and Chiefs say they govern this country by Egbo laws. But where are law and justice? Why do the poor people always suffer when the Consul is absent from the town? If Egbo is anything, it is an embodiment of the basest superstition, whereby orphans and widows are robbed and the strong and laborious forced into arbitrary bondage, and their goods ruthlessly seized to fatten a few pampered freemen who call themselves Egbo Chiefs.

7. The Calabar slave suffers trebly: (a) he receives no wages for his labour; (b) whatever he might possess belongs to his master, both when he is alive and when he is dead, for rich as he may be, his son must after his death become a canoeman to the vagabond son of his master. (c) Then, again, during his lifetime, most of his labour go to pay Egbo fines inflicted on him for breaking a law against which his master might offend, if a freeman, with impunity.

8. Three evils prevail here, which if put a stop to would induce a better state of things. The oppression of the poor and weak by Egbo laws; the fashion of people taking law into their own hands; and slavery. Declare the slaves to be free from their masters to-day, and Calabar becomes a far different place from what it is at present, for the poor slave is made the instrument of all the wrong doings in the country. At Abeokuta and Porto Novo the system of slavery is not so cruel as it is in this country. Besides, in those places a slave may redeem himself and his family if he be in position to do so. Here there is a non-redemption system, which does not allow a slave, however rich he may be, to redeem himself.

9. All these evils would disappear, my Lord, by this country being annexed to the British Crown. To this everybody in the country, freemen as well as slaves, though the latter dare not confess it, look forward with longing desire. This feeling may not be shared by King Ödök and a few robber Chiefs, but I can answer for the Head of the House of the Cobhams, Consul Hewett's and Consul Johnston's friend, for the powerful Chief, Yellow Duke, himself a slave, poor man! and for some of the Princes of the Houses of the Eyambas, and even the Archibongs. We, British subject, of course, desire it most, because that is the only way in which we could be secured from injustice and oppression. If Old Calabar, on the other hand, must remain a Protectorate, the British Consul here must have at his disposal one or more men-of-war stationed here always, and a force of Houssa soldiers. This would enable him to carry out, and, when necessary, to enforce his decision, which, for want of his own officers, he is always unable to do. To depend on the co-operation of the Kings and Chiefs is to make of the British Consul a laughing-stock, for they would refuse to assist him when one of themselves is the offender. They would readily jump at a slave or a poor British subject if Consul ordered them, but the Consul himself would never induce the two Kings and all the Chiefs to go and fetch from his house, say, Prince Archiboug Edem or Henshaw, Chief of Henshaw Town, even though themselves are convinced of his guilt. To have the Consul feared and respected, which is the only way to bring these savage people to, is to support him strongly; otherwise, better leave the country to itself.

10. As a British Colony, Old Calabar would rival Lagos. It has many markets, the soil is rich and fertile, its forests teem with useful plants and valuable wood, also with animals of all kinds. The merchants would then buy produce cheaper from the Omuns, the Etus, and the Acoona Coonas, by establishing factories in those places, than they would from Calabar third parties. The revenue in rum and gin alone would be something worth while. Above all, the traffic in human cargo would cease, and the mutilating of limbs, the fashion of flogging a slave to death, or giving him the deadly "esére," or Calabar bean or tiger's gall, would be a thing of the past, and the prayer of another grateful people will ascend to Heaven on behalf of England and Her Gracious Queen.

11. May your Lordship be pleased to pardon my presumption and the tediousness of this long letter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE JOS. TURNER, *Writing Clerk.*

We hereby testify that we have read this paper, that we thoroughly understand all that it contains, and that all are true, and nothing false or exaggerated.

(Signed) E. J. EYAMBA, *Prince.*
FRED. C. THOMAS.
JOSEPH S. JAMES.
LIONEL SILVANUS THOMAS.
THOMAS YELLOW DUKE.
JAMES B. CHAMBER.

P.S.—In further support of the statements contained in this document, I have the honour to submit, for your Lordship's perusal, copy of the suggestions and recommendations towards the better government of their country submitted to the Kings and Chiefs of Old Calabar at a general meeting held at the British Consulate on the 15th March this year. The Consul's kind proposal was all but wholly repudiated, showing plainly that not only are they unfit to rule their country, but that they would not assist the Consul in doing so, contrary to Article V of the Treaty of 1886.

G. J. T.

Old Calabar, October 25, 1887.

Inclosure 1 in No. 249.

THE suggestions and recommendations hereinafter enumerated were made by Edward Hyde Hewett, Esq., C.M.G., Her Britannic Majesty's Consul for the Bights of Benin and Biafra to the Kings and Chiefs of Old Calabar at a meeting held at the British Consulate, Old Calabar, on the 14th February, 1887.

At the request of the Kings and Chiefs, time was allowed them to consider and discuss among themselves the several matters submitted to them, and the Consul adjourned the meeting to the 15th March next.

For the guidance of the Kings and Chiefs the Consul prefaces his suggestions with the following extract, being Articles IV and V of the Treaty of 1886, by which the territories of Old Calabar were placed under the protection of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, &c. :—

"Article IV. All disputes between the Kings and Chiefs of Old Calabar, or between them and British or foreign traders, or between the aforesaid Kings and Chiefs and neighbouring tribes, which cannot be settled amicably between the two parties, shall be submitted to the British Consular or other officers appointed by Her Britannic Majesty to exercise jurisdiction in Old Calabar territories for arbitration and decision, or for arrangement.

"Article V. The Kings and Chiefs of Old Calabar hereby engage to assist the British Consular or other officers in the execution of such duties as may be assigned to them; and further, to act upon their advice in matters relating to the administration of justice, the development of the resources of the country, the interests of commerce, or in any other matter in relation to peace, order, and good government, and the general progress of civilization."

In order to obtain a more satisfactory administration of justice, a more speedy settlement of disputes, and an effectual means of enforcing the decisions delivered in cases that may be tried, it is suggested—

1. That the Kings and Chiefs of Old Calabar solemnly bind themselves, individually and collectively, to uphold and maintain the laws of the country, and to submit to, and, when called upon, to enforce, so far as they may be able, the decisions of the lawfully constituted Courts of justice.

2. That the Kings and Chiefs be constituted Judges or Magistrates, with authority to hear and adjudicate in cases brought before them.

3. That in each town there shall always be one or two Chiefs on duty, say for a month, to hear cases in dispute.

4. That the Chiefs shall take in turns to be resident in town to perform the duties mentioned in the paragraph immediately preceding.

5. No Chief shall be allowed to try or have any voice in the decision of the Court in cases in which he or any of his people are concerned.

6. That offences be classified under three heads:

(A.)—*Petty Offences committed by a Person affecting another or more Persons of the same House as that to which the Offender belongs.*

Offences under this head shall be tried by the master of the house, or some one deputed by him.

Except where the master of the house is personally affected, then the offence shall be tried by the head of the house, or by some person deputed by him.

If the head of a house is incapacitated, by being personally affected or concerned in a case, he may call in another Chief not objected to by the offending party to try the case, or it may be tried before the Court.

(B.)—*Serious Offences.*

This class of offences must be tried by the Court, consisting of one or more Chiefs.

(C.)—*Aggravated Offences.*

This class of offences must be tried by the High Court or general meeting of the Chiefs of Old Calabar.

This High Court will also have to try any case in which a Chief is the offending party, if such Chief elect to be tried by his peers.

(Should the above propositions be agreed to by the Kings and Chiefs, a Schedule will be made out enumerating the several offences under each of the heads (A), (B), and (C), with the maximum punishment to be awarded in each case.)

7. Against the decision in any case under the above-mentioned heads appeal will lie to Her Britannic Majesty's Consular or other officer appointed for the purpose of administering justice.

8. The Consul shall have power to refer any case he pleases to any Chief or Chiefs he may specify, and such Chief or Chiefs shall form, while trying such case, what shall be called a Special Court.

(It is unnecessary here to state the mode of procedure of the Courts, as that is a matter of detail which the Kings and Chiefs need not yet discuss.)

9. No prisoner is to be detained in custody for more than twenty-four hours after an opportunity has presented itself of bringing him before a Chief to hear the charge against him (Sunday is not to be reckoned in the twenty-four hours).

10. A law must be made prohibiting any person taking the law into his own hands, and a severe punishment or penalty in fine must be inflicted on persons breaking that law.

11. The decisions of the Court must be definite, and they must be carried out as soon as possible.

12. The carrying out or enforcement of decisions must be effected by officers of the Court, and under no circumstance is it to be left to the successful litigant party.

13. Pending the decision of the Consul in cases of appeal, the decision appealed against will not be enforced.

14. Torturing persons in order to get them to confess to being guilty of crimes, or to force them thereby to give evidence, is to be prohibited under severe penalties.

15. Preventing either the principals or witnesses in cases, or attempting to prevent them by force, bribes, or threats, to appear before a Court, or impeding, or attempting to impede, the course of justice, are serious offences, and must be treated with severity by the Court; the offender must be especially tried on such charge.

16. A still more serious offence is that of threatening, or endeavouring to bribe, any Chief who may be Judge in a case, and should be dealt with accordingly.

17. A Chief, who, through fear, favour, or bribery, should be influenced in giving his decision, must be considered as a most despicable creature, unfit to sit as a Judge, or to be the master or head of a house, and, on the offence being proved against him, should be deprived of his position as a Chief and banished from his country.

18. The mutilation or disfigurement of offenders is penalty of a barbarous character, and it is hoped that the Chiefs will see their way to abolishing it; making the infliction of such a penalty a criminal offence in the person ordering it.

19. It is recommended that a law be enacted against fighting, and it is desirable

that the penalty be severe in cases where bottles, matchets, cutlasses, or fire-arms are found to have been used.

20. The Consul does not recognize the right of any one to give himself and his house to another man. If the law of Old Calabar allows it the law must be altered, as it affects the liberty and property of others than the party who gives himself up.

21. It is an old and a very disgraceful custom among Calabar Chiefs—of course there are happily some exceptions—to rob the families of the dead. Very frequently they appropriate to themselves, upon some unfair plea, or by dishonest means, property which should go to the deceased's children and family. It will not be difficult for the Kings and Chiefs to recall the names of several big houses which have been brought very low, even ruined in this way. It is recommended that a law be made by which these spoilers may be brought to justice and dealt with in an exemplary manner.

22. "Erimum-Ukat" is a custom which must cease, and no man is to be allowed "to chop" the property of a debtor, still less that of a perfectly innocent and unoffending party. Such an act must be dealt with as the offence of taking the law into one's own hands. (See paragraph 10.)

23. In cases where slaves have done injury to a person's property, or for which damages may justly be claimed in addition to the punishment of the offender, the master of the slave is to be held liable to pay such amount as the Court may award.

24. In cases where by order of the Court slaves have to be disposed of to pay a debt or damages, the family of the person who has to pay are to be offered the refusal of such slaves at named prices. Slave families are not to be separated when it can be avoided, either in such cases as that immediately above mentioned, or in the case of the division of a deceased person's estate.

25. The Consul does not desire to put any impediment in the way of settling differences in an amicable manner; indeed, this mode of settlement he would rather encourage, so long as he could be sure that justice is done.

26. If the Kings and Chiefs desire to govern the country in a proper and just manner, they must do it not by the force of an institution founded on superstition, but by good laws, setting themselves the example of obedience to them, laws that are founded on just principles—laws, the same for the rich and poor, the strong and the weak, and to which all alike may with confidence appeal for the redress of wrongs. Egbo is superstition, as nobody knows better than those to whom these remarks are addressed, and superstition must vanish in the presence of civilization and education as certainly as night disappears at the rising of the sun. It is not yet expedient to make a law abolishing Egbo—perhaps it will never be necessary, for most probably it will die out without the assistance of any law to suppress it. In the meantime, however, such force as it still possess may be utilized, and a convenient and useful mode to employ it would be to keep the towns clean, and in a somewhat more sanitary state than they have hitherto been.

The Consul thinks that he has given the Kings and Chiefs sufficient to think over and discuss, and will therefore not trouble them now with any suggestions with respect to new laws about mothers of twin children—their offspring, or any other subject. He earnestly hopes that the Kings and Chiefs will seriously think over, discuss among themselves, and get to thoroughly understand the suggestions and recommendations he has made.

In case of any one requiring explanation of any matter, the Consul invites him to apply to him for the wished-for information, either personally or by letter.

Having now submitted what he has to recommend, the Consul wishes the Kings and Chiefs to be assured that in all he has suggested he has been prompted by a sincere desire to do good to the people, Chiefs and slaves of Old Calabar.

(Signed) EDWARD HYDE HEWETT,
Her Britannic Majesty's Consul.

British Consulate, Old Calabar,
February 14, 1887.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 249.

To King Duke Ephraim IX,

I ORDER you immediately on receipt of this to take your people and proceed to arrest Egbo Egbo Basi, and bring him before me for contempt of Court. You will communicate this order to Chief John Boko. If the order is not immediately obeyed serious results will ensue.

(Signed)

H. H. JOHNSTON, *Acting Consul.**Old Calabar, July 21, 1887.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 249.

Henshaw Town v. Tom Yellow Duke.

Memorandum from W. R. Sturley, Agent for Messrs. Stuart and Douglas, to King Duke IX.

Dear Sir,

YOU will no doubt know that Mr. Tom Yellow Duke has placed himself under the protection of the white men, and is staying with me. Had he offended against a just law he certainly should not have found an asylum with me, but having acted as a man, and as any man in this world would have done, I write this to ask you that if he returns to his house that you, or any of your people, will not trouble and tell me that he will be free to go or come, and that the palaver will be settled upon the arrival of the Consul, whom I expect shortly, he having finished his work in Opobo by removing Ja Ja for ever from his River. You are a King, and take a lesson by this; be just to all your people. You must know that a "free" cannot do what he likes, and any injustice you may do Tom be sure it would be visited on your head, not only by me, but other white men will lay this matter before Consul and the Headmen at home. Let Tom scot-free, and I will do nothing, or attend any meeting.

Yours truly,

(Signed)

W. R. STURLEY.

No. 250.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet.

(No. 271. Africa.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 9, 1887.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 180, Africa, of the 26th July last, respecting the complaints which were stated by Chancellor Metternich to have been preferred by the Acting Governor of the Cameroons against Acting Consul Johnston, I have to inform your Excellency that the matter having been referred to that officer explanations have been received from him, which leave no doubt that the complaints in question must have been due to some misapprehension. Mr. Johnston proves that he had made no alteration in the arrangement, provisionally concluded by him with the Acting Governor in June last, as to the definition of persons in Victoria entitled to receive British protection; and he speaks in the most friendly terms of the Acting Governor, with whom he states he has been in excellent relations. Your Excellency should make a communication in this sense to Chancellor Bismarck.

I inclose, for your own information, copy of the despatch containing Mr. Johnston's Report,* in order that you may base the terms of your communication upon its contents.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

SALISBURY.

No. 251.

Liverpool African Association to Foreign Office.—(Received December 14.)

Sir,

19, Castle Street, Liverpool, December 13, 1887.

I AM desired by the Opobo Committee of the African Association respectfully to ask whether you can favour them with any information as to the proceedings of the

* No. 242 c.

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Court of Inquiry, lately held at Accra, to deal with the charges against Ja Ja, or as to the decisions come to at the conclusion of the Court sittings.

I am, &c.

(Signed) J. HAMPDEN JACKSON, *Secretary.*

No. 252.

Foreign Office to Aborigines' Protection Society.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 14, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo with reference to the affairs of the Opobo River, and the desirability of Miss Johnson's testimony being taken at the inquiry to be held on the conduct of the Chief Ja Ja. In reply, I am to inform you that Admiral Sir W. H. Grubbe has concluded his investigation, in the course of which he has doubtless examined all necessary witnesses.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 253.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 15.)

Sir,

Downing Street, December 14, 1887.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir H. Holland to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th ultimo relating to the detention at Accra of King Ja Ja and his followers.

I am to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, a copy of a telegram received from the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony, dated the 9th instant, respecting a wish expressed by Ja Ja to reside near Accra.

I am, &c.

(Signed) R. H. MEADE.

Inclosure in No. 253.

The Governor of the Gold Coast to Sir H. Holland.

(Telegraphic.)

Accra, December 9, 1887.

MILLER, Glasgow, has been informed by telegram decision of Rear-Admiral in relation to Ja Ja, and that he is most anxious to reside at (near) this place, stating that he would die elsewhere. Should this point be conceded, in my opinion proximity of Oil Rivers might be productive of continuance of disturbance.

No. 254.

Observations by Consul Hewett on Letter to the Marquis of Salisbury from Mr. G. J. Turner, of Old Calabar, dated October 25.—(Received December 19.)

I FIND this letter strongly supports the representations I have already made as to the cruelty and oppression exercised by the Chiefs of Old Calabar towards the poorer and weaker natives.

Mr. Turner can speak with authority, as he is (or was when I left Old Calabar) Secretary to King Duke. Of those who confirm Mr. Turner's statements, I may remark that Prince E. John Eyambe has made himself obnoxious to the Chiefs generally by the outspoken manner in which he has condemned their arbitrary and cruel ways, and advocated the advantage to his country of British rule. He has many times written to the Foreign Office calling attention to various acts of injustice, &c., and, I believe, also on the subject of the annexation of Old Calabar. Mr. James, who is a native of the West Indies, has also held the position of King's Secretary, and, having resided for a

long time in Old Calabar, knows a great deal of the private affairs of King Duke and the Chiefs, as well as the sentiments of the natives towards their rulers. Mr. Fred. C. Thomas has rendered me great assistance in my work to correct acts of injustice. He is a native of Sierra Leone, and is one of the few from that colony resident in my district who is honest and truthful. Of Mr. Lionel S. Thomas and Mr. Chamber I know but little, except that they earn an honest livelihood, and there have been no complaints against them. Of Thomas Yellow Duke I have not a high opinion—he is, however, a capital trader, and by industry and perseverance has worked himself up to a very good position; but unless he had had some personal cause of complaint against the Chiefs, I doubt if he would have signed his name confirming Mr. Turner's letter.

With reference to the inclosure which contains certain suggestions and recommendations which I wished the Kings and Chiefs to adopt in accordance with Article V of the Treaty of 1884, I should state that two of the districts of Old Calabar were willing and anxious to accept them all, but Duke Town, Creek Town, &c.—the districts to which intercourse with Europeans has been almost exclusively confined—agreed only to some of them, rejecting the first, the one which was of paramount importance, and on which the whole scheme hinged: this I attributed as much to their fear of some as to their friendship for others of their compeers, against whom they might have been required to take active measures.

In my despatches I have stated that a local force of constabulary is necessary in my Consular district, but I do not go so far as Mr. Turner, when he says that "two or three gun-boats should be at the Consul's disposal," for I think one to cruise about the district would be quite sufficient under ordinary circumstances.

Mr. Turner writes to the point when he remarks that, "to depend on the co-operation of the Kings and Chiefs is to make of the British Consul a laughing-stock," and he shows a correct appreciation of the uncivilized folks among whom he is living, in laying down the proposition that "to have the Consul feared and respected, which is the only way to bring these savage people to, is to support him strongly."

(Signed)

EDWARD HYDE HEWETT, *Consul*.

London, December 16, 1887.

No. 255.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 19, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of the Colonial Office letter of the 14th instant, forwarding a copy of a telegram received from the Governor of the Gold Coast, stating that Ja Ja is anxious to reside near Accra; and I am to acquaint you, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, that Lord Salisbury can arrive at no decision on this subject until the Admiral's Report of the recent investigation at Opobo shall have been received.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

T. V. LISTER.

No. 256.

Foreign Office to African Association.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 19, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 13th instant, requesting information as to the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry into the charges against Ja Ja, and, in reply, I am to inform you that the Report of the proceedings has not yet been received.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

T. V. LISTER.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received December 21.)

Sir,

Admiralty, December 19, 1887.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to forward, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, extracts from a letter received from Captain Hand, of Her Majesty's ship "Royalist," dated 2nd ultimo, at Fernando Po, on the following subjects:—

1. The state of affairs at Opobo.
2. The necessity for the presence of a gun-boat in the Bights at the time of writing.
3. The recent hoisting of the French flag at Corisco in Spanish territory, and the action of the Governor of Fernando Po, who caused it to be hauled down and sent to the Governor of the Gaboon.

I am, &c.

(Signed) R. D. AWDRY.

Inclosure in No. 257.

Captain Hand to Admiralty.

(Extract.)

AT Opobo everything is quiet at present. There is very little trade. The people at Ohombela have declined to allow white men to settle at their markets, and have refused to trade with them in anything but slaves. Their Chief, Ekeki Noteshi, who was installed by Ja Ja, declines to attend the Consul's palavers, and it is feared he will prove a troublesome neighbour.

Three factories are being established up the River, one at the entrance of the Obano Creek and two at a market about 5 or 6 miles to north-east of Aqumena, on the creek passing the latter; they are all situated just below the creek leading to Ohombela.

The Consul demanded and has obtained from the Opobo Chiefs, since Ja Ja's removal, a Krupp gun and two machine guns as payment of a fine which had been previously imposed in palm oil.

No inquiry has as yet been instituted into Ja Ja's conduct, referred to in my letter of the 13th October; the telegram alluded to in that letter was sent by Mr. Johnston, Acting Consul, and he, since his return, has not ascended the Opobo River.

The presence of one gun-boat in the Bights at the present time is indispensable; there ought to be two at least, not only on account of the reasons mentioned in my letter of the 30th September, but also as the Home Government is about to enforce the terms of the Protectorate Treaty in all the Rivers, which will most decidedly for some little time endanger both life and property, and there is also every probability of further complications at Lagos. The sloops are no use for the above work, as they cannot cross any of the bars.

The Acting Governor here has informed me that the French quite recently erected a factory and hoisted their flag at Corisco in Spanish territory, and that, refusing to haul the flag down, the Governor of Fernando Po caused it to be hauled down and sent it to the Governor of the Gaboon, and also had the factory pulled down.

No. 258.

Messrs. Couper, Johnstone, and Co. to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 27.)

My Lord,

58, Bath Street, Glasgow, December 26, 1887.

REFERRING to your letter of the 10th October, we shall be glad to learn the result of the inquiry in regard to the affairs in the Opobo River.

We notice in the newspapers it is stated that Ja Ja has been exiled to St. Helena, and it is most important for us to learn the truth, as our business this year in that River has suffered sadly.

We are, &c.

(For Couper, Johnstone, and Co., Limited),

(Signed)

WILLIAM COUPER, *Manager.*

No. 259.

END

Foreign Office to Mr. G. J. Turner.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 27, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th October last respecting affairs at Old Calabar, and I am to express to you his Lordship's thanks for the information therein given, which will be borne in mind.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 260.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Couper, Johnstone, and Co.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, December 29, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th instant, desiring to be informed of the result of the inquiry in regard to the state of affairs on the Opobo River, and I am to acquaint you, in reply, that the Report of the Admiral has not yet been received.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 261.

Mr. S. Rhodes to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 31.)

My Lord,

22, Woburn Place, Russell Square, December 30, 1887.

AS one deeply concerned in the inquiry which Admiral Sir W. Hunt Grubbe has recently instituted into the conduct of King Ja Ja at Opobo, I should feel grateful if your Lordship would permit me to read the evidence taken in the case, together with the Admiral's Report thereon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STEPHEN BERESFORD RHODES.